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Japan

U.S. Charges Over Foreign Chip Share Refuted

OW2205130792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1256 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Japan's electronics industry Friday denied charges by its American counterpart that it has reneged on last year's agreement to improve the foreign share of Japan's chip market.

In a statement issued to the U.S. Government and Congress, the Electronic Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ) emphasized that the pact signed in 1991 does not guarantee a 20 percent share for foreign chip makers by the end of this year, saying it is only a target.

It said steady progress has been made through cooperation between Japanese and U.S. chip makers on raising the foreign percentage, but added that further efforts are needed by U.S. makers to market their products.

The statement was issued as the U.S. semiconductor industry is pressing the U.S. Government and Congress to impose sanctions against Japan for what it claims is a failure to abide by the agreement.

In a harshly worded report to President George Bush in March, the U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) said the pact was "at the threshold of failure," and that the foreign portion hadn't grown since the first quarter of 1990.

With 1992 being an election year in the United States, several U.S. lawmakers are also urging Washington to take action against Japan if the foreign share does not reach the 20 percent level.

The EIAJ's statement also came ahead of talks between Japanese and U.S. trade officials on foreign access to the Japanese chip market in Tokyo on June 4 and 5.

The upcoming talks are the third since the chip trade pact went into effect last August.

In a related development, Tadahiro Sekimoto, president of the leading Japanese chip maker NEC Corp., told a press conference that Japanese chip producers will continue their efforts to improve foreign access in light of Japan-U.S. relations.

But Sekimoto, who spoke as chairman of the Japan Electronic Industry Development Association, stressed that it is up to chip users to decide whether to purchase foreign chips.

Sekimoto went on to say that the SIA would complain about the foreign share even if it reaches 20 or 30 percent.

Japan's industry also disputes the SIA's market share calculation method, saying the foreign portion stands at around 16 percent against some 14 percent claimed by the SIA.

Okinawa Investigating Camp Schwab Tank Road

OW2205133992 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 22 May 92 Evening Edition p 1

[Text] The prefectural government has started taking action to investigate the actual conditions concerning the large-scale tank road project, which is now in progress at the training area of Camp Schwab of the U.S. Forces. Staff members in charge were dispatched to the project site from the military base liaison section of the Governor's Office and the pollution problems section of the Environment and Public Health Department on the morning of 22 May. Kacho Hanashiro, deputy director of the Governor's Office said: "Now that the rainy season has set in, it just is insensible. If no actions are taken, it would be inevitable that the sea would become polluted by red earth." Then, he disclosed that the government would collect actual facts and related matters first and then take corresponding actions.

Tokyo Cautious About EC's Farm Reform Decision

OW2205033992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0257 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Japan showed a cautious attitude Friday toward a decision made by agriculture ministers of the European Community (EC) to undertake the first major reform of its common agricultural policy in 30 years.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries called the agreement, reached Thursday, an important step forward toward a successful conclusion of the stalled Uruguay Round world trade talks. The ministry, however, said it is too early to believe that the agreement will help speed up negotiations on farm trade between the United States and the EC.

Ministry officials said the agreement will help unify views on farm issues among member countries of the EC but cautioned against overly evaluating the agreement, which came after a long delay. They said the proposed policy reform is designed to prepare for the integration of the common market toward the end of this year.

There is a possibility that the EC will become more intransigent on the farm issue if the United States refuses to back down, the officials said. The U.S.-EC ministerial meeting scheduled for Wednesday next week holds the key to progress in their farm negotiations, they said.

G-7 Summit Site Narrowed to Chiba or Yokohama

OW2105012592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0051 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Japan will host next year's annual economic summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations in either Chiba or Yokohama, a senior Foreign Ministry official said late Wednesday. The two previous G-7 summits hosted by Japan were

both held in Tokyo, and there had been calls for the next one to be held outside the capital.

The ministry official said the choice for the summit venue has been narrowed to Chiba or Yokohama. Other candidates mentioned earlier had included the ancient capital of Kyoto.

The official said, "We want to open the summit outside of Tokyo and select one of the two sites in the Tokyo vicinity."

Possible sites mentioned earlier this week are the 13,000 square-meter Japan convention center, known as the Makuhari Messe, in Chiba, and the Minato Mirai 21 urban complex in Yokohama.

The ministry hopes to make a final decision on the site before this year's summit opens in Munich on July 6. The official indicated that the Japan summit will be held after the end of the ordinary Diet session, which would mean it would not take place before July.

More Export Control on Nuclear Technology Urged

OW2205115192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—The deputy head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) urged industrial nations Friday to enhance export controls on nuclear-related technology in order to keep atomic weapons from falling into the hands of dictators.

Jon Jennekens, deputy director general of the Vienna-based nuclear watchdog institution, issued the appeal at a news conference at the Science and Technology Agency in Tokyo.

"One of many important lessons of the (Persian) Gulf war and the Iraq case is that nations with very sophisticated capabilities for producing nuclear-related equipment and machineries must improve their export control," Jennekens said.

Jennekens noted the lessons of the war, and pointed to the ultimate discovery of Iraqi President Saddam Hysayn's nuclear plant which was later destroyed by IAEA inspectors.

"Last year, your own government, the European Community countries, and North American countries initiated a very serious and comprehensive review of their export control proceedings and procedures," Jennekens told Japanese reporters.

He noted that Iraq, an IAEA signatory, had been pressing ahead with its own clandestine nuclear weapons development program before the breakout of the Gulf war, while allowing IAEA periodical inspectors limited access to nuclear facilities it specified.

Jennekens said the experience showed that not only IAEA inspectors but each IAEA member nation needs to step up responsible efforts—through inspections and export control—to block the global proliferation of nuclear weapons technology to hostile nations.

Saying that IAEA safeguard activities alone are not enough, Jennekens said, "what (IAEA) member nations do individually and collectively is important to ensure that there are no longer opportunities that someone like Saddam do what he did."

The IAEA leader said there is "no question that Iraq, by its clandestine activities, violated the safeguard agreement with the agency and we must stand together much more strongly and ensure that that sort of activities is not allowed to repeat itself."

Jennekens also expressed his organization's strong hope that it will be able to secure maximum cooperation from Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and the United States in allowing IAEA inspectors to check compliance with the safeguard accord.

He commended Japan for its cooperation on drawing up a new set of recommendations for enhancing and updating the IAEA's inspection activities to deal with ongoing and planned constructions of more sophisticated and larger-scale nuclear fuel reprocessing plants.

The new guidelines were confirmed at a meeting of inspection experts from the IAEA, Japan, Britain, France, Germany, the European Community and the U.S. at a conference in the central Japanese port town of Shimoda, Shizuoka Prefecture, he said.

He called for increased accuracy in the measurement of the amount of nuclear fuel produced and stored at each facility.

The conference's new proposal would enable the IAEA to ensure that member states do not tamper with data from measurement instruments set up at nuclear facilities since it would allow the IAEA to "maintain an independent verification capability."

Kyushu Says Nuclear Fuel Transport Plan Secret

OW2005115292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Kyushu Electric Power Co. said Wednesday it is ready to accept a government request to tighten controls on information concerning transportation of nuclear fuel to prevent hijacking attempts.

Shigeru Ono, president of the power utility, said at a news conference that the company is studying the request by the science and technology agency with a view to accepting it.

The request, made to Japan's major power companies, calls for electric utilities to keep secret information about transportation of nuclear fuel.

Company officials said the requested blackout of sensitive information will be applied to transportation of spent nuclear fuel at its nuclear plant in Kagoshima in June.

The company has so far disclosed the schedule for nuclear fuel transportation to and from its nuclear power plants.

Nagasaki, Hiroshima Protest PRC Nuclear Test

OW2205062992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0613 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Beijing, May 22 KYODO—A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday that China had carried out an underground nuclear test recently. Western reports have said the test was carried out Thursday. XINHUA News Agency said the spokesman gave the confirmation without elaboration.

In Japan, Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka sent a letter of protest to Chinese Ambassador Yang Zhenya, the mayor's office said. The letter said the test countered international opinion that favors nuclear disarmament.

The city government of Nagasaki in western Japan also sent a letter of protest to Chinese Ambassador Yang, protesting what it called the testing of a 1,000-kiloton bomb and calling for an immediate end to nuclear testing. It noted Russia and France have announced suspensions of nuclear testing.

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Korean DMZ Incident

OW2205124992 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 22 May 92

[NHK reporter Joichi Nishihara's report from the Foreign Ministry]

[Excerpts] Three North Korean soldiers were killed and one South Korean soldier was wounded this morning in the demilitarized zone [DMZ] separating the two Koreas. Shooting broke out after the three North Koreans entered the DMZ. [passage omitted]

Now, we will bring to you reaction of the Japanese Government from the Foreign Ministry.

[NHK reporter Joichi Nishihara] The Foreign Ministry is trying in a hurry to contact the South Korean defense authorities through the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. The ministry is collecting accurate information to find out whether it was an accidental clash or linked to some kind of a movement in North Korea.

The news of the incident was brought to Prime Minister Miyazawa, who was attending a Diet committee meeting, as soon as it was received. He later told reporters that he suspects that it was not a clash between the military units but a minor incident. He also said that he did not know all the details.

Talks between North and South Korea have been progressing smoothly as noted in the case of a recent meeting of prime ministers of both North and South Korea, which produced an agreement allowing separated families to visit each other. The Japanese Government spoke positively about the progress at a Japan-DPRK meeting, which was held last week in Beijing, for normalization of diplomatic relations. However, unlike in Europe, tension between North and South continues on the Korean peninsula, and suspicions remain about North Korea's capability to develop nuclear weapons.

The Japanese Government is in contact with both China and Russia and is monitoring the developments closely, hoping that this incident will not cause a setback to detente in Asia.

Assemblywomen Say SDF Not Needed in Cambodia

OW2205132192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—A group of three Japanese local assemblywomen in Tokyo said Friday there is no need for Japan to send its Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to join United Nations peacekeeping operations now underway in Cambodia.

Tokyo metropolitan assembly member Nachiko Aoki said, "helping Cambodian people reconstruct their war-devastated country on their own would be the most realistic."

Aoki, 42, led the group to visit Cambodia earlier this month for a firsthand look on the Cambodian people.

Aoki said she was much impressed by activities by members of nongovernmental groups in Cambodia.

Along with two members of the Higashimurayama Municipal Assembly and the Higashiyamato Municipal Assembly, Aoki arrived in Phnom Penh on May 12 and visited facilities such as elementary schools, orphanages, and a health center for mothers and children.

They also met staff members from nongovernmental organizations who were engaged in medical work or reconstruction of rural areas, Aoki said.

Rengo To Push Own Version of UN PKO Bill

OW2205061892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0530 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Japan's largest trade union confederation Rengo and its parliamentary group Rengo Sangiin agreed Friday to push their own policy of sending a nonmilitary corps to join U.N. peacekeeping operations [PKO], Rengo's leader said.

Akira Yamagishi, president of the eight million-strong Japanese Trade Union Confederation, told reporters following his meeting with Rengo Sangiin leaders that Rengo and the parliamentary group will cooperate more

closely to push their own policy in the opposition-controlled House of Councillors. The Rengo plan calls for sending a corps independent of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) overseas to help in peacekeeping operations.

In addition, Yamagishi referred to the upper house election slated for July, saying, "Rengo and the 13-member Rengo Sangiin will refuse to agree to simultaneous elections of the House of Representatives and the second chamber."

Yamagishi quoted Rengo Sangiin representative Yasumatsu Hoshikawa as saying he had told the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties that Japan should allow a corps of civilians to join the U.N. missions. SDF personnel must be either laid off or be sent on loan from the SDF if they are to participate in the U.N. peacekeeping missions, Yamagishi said.

The LDP is trying to get the government-proposed bill through the current session of the 252-seat second chamber to enable SDF personnel as such to join the U.N. missions. The bill, approved by the LDP-controlled House of Representatives in December, can pass through the upper house and become law only if some of the opposition parties endorse it.

On the proposed simultaneous elections for both chambers, Yamagishi said he rejects such an election tactic as it shows the selfish interest of the parties advocating it. Top LDP leaders have suggested they may back simultaneous elections to seek the people's mandate on the peacekeeping cooperation bill if the bill does not pass through the upper house.

LDP Urges Approval of UN Peacekeeping Bill

OW2205092292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Tamisuke Watanuki, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), called on three opposition parties Friday to endorse the government-proposed bill to enable Self-Defense Forces personnel to join U.N. Peacekeeping Operations.

A leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) said Watanuki made the call in a meeting with secretaries general and Diet policy affairs chairmen of the SDP, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP).

SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana said after the meeting that Watanuki also urged the three parties to cooperate with the LDP on a package of political reform bills in the current Diet session.

Watanuki was quoted as saying it is "absolutely" essential for the government-proposed U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill to pass in parliament so Japan can contribute to U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

"I told Watanuki that deliberations in the House of Councillors should be held to allow Japan to dispatch nonmilitary personnel independent of the SDF to join the U.N. peacekeeping missions," Yamahana told reporters.

DSP Secretary General Takashi Yonezawa and Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa also told reporters that Komeito and the DSP urged the SDP not to block the bill's passage in the upper house session ending on June 21.

The LDP and the two middle-of-the-road opposition parties—Komeito and the DSP—are trying to get the government-proposed bill through the 25-seat upper house after amending some portions.

But the SDP is determined to block the bill, arguing it violates the war-renouncing Constitution, party officials said.

The bill pending in the opposition-controlled upper house passed through the House of Representatives last December.

On political reform, Yamahana quoted LDP Diet Policy Affairs Committee Chairman Seiroku Kajiyama as saying the LDP will make concrete proposals to opposition parties in the near future.

SDP leader Yamahana said he stressed that the ruling and opposition parties should come up with ways to prevent political parties from getting involved in scandals.

Komeito Secretary General Ichikawa agreed with Yamahana, saying parliament should set up measures to clarify how political funds should flow from big enterprises to political parties.

Vote Value Issue 'May' Force Twin Election

OW2205123292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1207 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—A top Japanese business leader suggested Friday that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa may be forced to dissolve the House of Representatives if he fails to correct disparities in the value of votes among its constituencies.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said possible simultaneous elections for both houses of the Diet, following dissolution of the lower house, may depend on the success of Miyazawa's proposal to correct the disparities.

Miyazawa, who also serves as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), asked LDP leaders Thursday to try and enact reforms that would reduce the differences in vote values.

The Supreme Court ruled recently that the present electoral districts are unconstitutional because of the disparities.

Hiraiwa also said the outcome of a pending bill that would authorize the dispatch of Japan's Self-Defense Forces personnel abroad to join United Nations peace-keeping efforts would be not be a [as received] factor in the holding of simultaneous elections.

Hata Expects Signs of Recovery by Summer's End

OW2205025392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0228 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Friday he expects the Japanese economy to show signs of better health by the end of the summer. Hata told a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting that the economy is now bottoming out.

"We will have a feeling that economic conditions have improved a bit by the end of the summer," he predicted. His optimistic prediction on the economy follows recent remarks by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that the economy would bottom out in the April-June quarter.

Hata said inventory adjustment is picking up speed and pointed to the recent firming up in the stock market, which he attributed to the return of individual investors, and to growing demand in the housing sector.

"We believe the economy will eventually shift to a cruising speed expansion without any additional measures (to spur growth)," he said.

Hata also said conditions in the credit market and demand for capital should be considered in deciding whether to allow long-term credit banks to raise their long-term prime lending rates.

"This is an issue that should be considered in the context of the entire financial market," he said. Rising costs for fund-raising should not immediately lead to higher long-term prime rates, he said.

The Finance Ministry intervened last month in moves by long-term credit banks to raise the rate amid rising costs for issuing interest-bearing debentures. The ministry was worried that higher long-term interest rates would put a dampener on the effects of the government's fiscal stimulus package announced March 31 and the reduction of the official discount rate announced April 1.

The long-term prime rate, which the banks charge on loans of more than one year to their most creditworthy customers, is set at 0.9 percentage point higher than the coupon of the debenture, which the banks issue at the end of every month.

The ministry has already hinted that it will allow the banks to raise the rate at the end of May by boosting the coupon for the May issue of the 10-year government bond by 0.2 percentage point in view of the recent weakness in the bond market.

Nippon Credit Bank To Rescue Nonbank Affiliates

OW2205022292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0107 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Nippon Credit Bank will rescue three of its affiliated nonbank institutions reeling from bad loans made during the speculative "bubble economy," sources close to the bank said Friday.

The long-term credit bank will Friday notify Crown Leasing Corp., Nippon Assurance Finance Service Co., and Nippon Total Finance Inc., all based in Tokyo, and their creditors of its assistance programs, the sources said. Under the programs, the Credit Bank will allow all the three nonbanks to defer their principal payments, totaling 230 billion yen, and will waive the interest on its lending to them.

Daiwa Bank, a major creditor of Crown Leasing, will reduce its interest on loans to the firm to 2 percent.

The three nonbanks will have to pay only interest ranging from 4.00 percent to 5.25 percent, a level equal to the prime lending rate to the most creditworthy customers, on their borrowings from other financial institutions, commercial banks, trust banks, and insurance firms, the sources said.

Nippon Credit Bank expects the programs, which will cost it 15 billion yen annually, will help the three companies recover from their financial difficulties in three years.

The balance of loans made by three leasing and financing concerns totals 1.73 trillion yen, of which 350 billion yen worth are in arrears because of the bankruptcy and other troubles of their main borrowers.

Nonbanks Accused of Not Reporting Income

OW2205062392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0521 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—Tax evasion and unreported incomes by nonbanking institutions totaled about 17.7 billion yen between July 1990 and June 1991, a senior tax administration official told the Diet on Friday.

Michisato Sakamoto, head of the National Tax Administration Agency's Taxation Department, told the House of Representatives Finance Committee that errors were found in tax returns filed by all 34 major nonbanks with capital of 100 million yen or more. Tax evasion and unreported incomes totaling about 4.7 billion yen were discovered in the cases, he said.

Sakamoto added errors were found in 386 of 447 tax returns submitted by medium and small lending firms and 132 of them were illegal. Their tax evasion and unreported incomes totaled about 13 billion yen, he said. In most cases, he said, questionable companies falsified the amount of their expenditures and loans.

TSE Finds No Evidence in Alleged Honshu Scam

OW2005055692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The president of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) said Wednesday the TSE has found no evidence of stock manipulation in the massive rise in value of Honshu Paper Co. shares in October 1990. Minoru Nagaoka, answering questions before the House of Representatives Finance Committee, also said the TSE has completed its investigations into the case and reported the results to the Finance Ministry.

The Honshu stock rose by 1,300 yen on the TSE in a three-day period in early October 1990, hit a record high of 5,020 yen at the end of that month, and then plunged to the previous level. The TSE, in cooperation with the Finance Ministry, has been investigating the suspected stock manipulation.

Report Concerned About Small, Mid-Sized Firms

OW2205022092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0025 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—A decline in the number of newly started small companies may dampen Japanese industry's competitiveness and lessen its vitality, a government report released Friday said.

The fiscal 1991 report on small and medium companies, presented by International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe and endorsed by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet, expressed concern over the lower proportion of new business start-ups, which has fallen to mid-1960s levels. The report put the percentage of new business to existing businesses at some 4 percent. In 1970, the percentage was around 7 percent.

Blamed for the drop were soaring land prices, the high cost of capital spending, the advanced technology required to establish new businesses, and the difficulty of securing employees, the report said.

Smaller companies showed poor performance amid the nation's economic slowdown in fiscal 1991 ended March 31. The report stressed the need for prompt action by smaller companies to cope with the serious shortage of labor and rationalize distribution.

Overcoming severe business conditions, the report urged smaller companies to play major roles through their close involvement in regional economies in helping further develop Japan's economic society.

"It is essential to raise the start-up ratio to activate the industry through sound competition," said Tsuyoshi Nakai, research division director of the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency.

Kyowa Saitama Bank Fires Official Over Fraud

OW2005023892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0225 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—Kyowa Saitama Bank has dismissed one of its branch managers for extending at least 3.55 billion yen in unsecured loans to real estate brokers, banking sources said Wednesday.

The 53-year-old official, who was the manager of the then Saitama Bank's Shinjuku-Shintoshin branch in Tokyo, loaned a total of 12.5 billion yen to nine real estate firms and three of their executives in 1990 and 1991. Of the total, at least 3.55 billion yen worth were unsecured, the sources said. The manager, whom the sources declined to identify by name, has admitted to irregularities, they said. The bank has no plan to seek criminal prosecution of the dismissed official, the sources said.

Kyowa Saitama Bank, a major commercial bank created through the merger of Kyowa Bank and Saitama Bank in April 1991, has reported the matter to the Finance Ministry. The bank dismissed the manager in November. It also demoted seven senior branch officials and reduced their monthly salaries in connection with the same case, the sources said.

Creation of Pilot Local Governments Recommended

OW2205022492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0132 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—An Administrative Reform Council subcommittee will recommend the establishing of pilot local governments to promote decentralization of power, according to a draft report obtained by KYODO News Service on Friday. The draft calls for setting up 10 to 20 such pilot local governments nationwide, mainly in cities or communities of cities and towns with a total population of more than 200,000.

The subcommittee on decentralization of power under the Ad Hoc Commission on Administrative Reform also says in the draft that the central government should reduce or flexibly apply its authority over as many as 89 matters to give such self-governing bodies more autonomy. These matters include city planning, drainage planning, and new bus routes, which currently need approval of cabinet ministers.

The panel at the same time requests the national government to take similar measures on subsidies for 91 items. The subcommittee, however, did not ask in the draft that the government transfer any of its authoritative power to such pilot local governments.

Panel sources said government ministries and agencies consulted strongly opposed any transfer of power to pilot local governments and questioned the capabilities of local self-governing bodies. The second round session of the Administrative Reform Council, in its final report

submitted last December, clearly asked for such power transfers by the central government to local authorities.

The subcommittee is scheduled to submit its report to the Administrative Reform Council June 5. The current third round session of the Ad Hoc Commission on Administrative Reform will hand over the report to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in late June, incorporated in its subcommittee reports.

'Red Army' Doctor's Passport Appeal Rejected

OW1905133992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1312 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 19 KYODO—The Tokyo High Court turned down a lower court ruling Tuesday and rejected an appeal by a doctor demanding the Foreign Ministry cancel its decision not to issue her a passport for her alleged connection with the Japanese Red Army.

Presiding Judge Shigeru Sato said she had a close relationship with the Red Army and it is not unreasonable to refuse her a passport.

Takako Nobuhara, 51, went to Lebanon in 1971 to work in a medical capacity at Palestinian refugee camps. She lost her passport and applied for a new one at the Japanese Embassy in Syria in 1982 but the ministry refused. She filed a suit in 1983 demanding the ministry issue her a new passport.

The Tokyo District Court accepted her demand in December 1989, saying the ministry's refusal was illegal since her alleged close relations with the Red Army was not acknowledged. The ministry appealed to the higher court.

The Red Army, formed in 1971, is responsible for a series of hijacking and armed attacks in the 1970s.

Based on the ministry's evidence, including depositions by people related to the group, the judge said Nobuhara had been a liaison agent in Beirut for its top leader, Fusako Shigenobu.

Nobuhara had made statements admiring the group's efforts and worked with its members, the judge said.

The Red Army is reportedly based in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and has close ties with radical Palestinian groups. Japanese police have placed Shigenobu and another 15 members on the international wanted list.

However, the judge said Nobuhara had not participated directly in the group's activities and was not a member.

After the ruling, Nobuhara told reporters she will take the case to the supreme court, saying the judgment "was very reactionary and one-sided...I doubt if the court stands for the people."

Labor Ministry, BOJ Plan To Meet Regularly

OW2205022692 Tokyo ..YODO in English 0200 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—The Labor Ministry and the Bank of Japan (BOJ) will hold regular meetings once every month or two to discuss employment conditions, Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo said Friday. The initial session is planned to take place in June, Kondo told reporters.

The heads of the BOJ's Policy Planning Department and Research and Statistics Department, as well as the chief of the Labor Ministry's Policy Planning and Research Department, are expected to participate in the meeting. The central bank already holds regular meetings on various issues with the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Workers Win Average of 4.97% in Wage Rises

OW2105082592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Japanese workers won an average of 4.97 percent or 13,075 yen in monthly wage rises this year, a leader of Japan's largest trade union confederation Rengo said Thursday.

Seigo Yamada, general secretary of the eight million-strong Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), said this year's monthly wage increase was down 0.68 percentage points or 1,275 yen from the 5.65 percent won last year.

It was also the lowest wage hike in four years, Yamada said. The monthly wage rises averaged 4.39 percent in 1988, 5.11 percent in 1989, 5.91 percent in 1990, and 5.65 percent in 1991.

After reporting on the wage hikes to Rengo's central executive committee, Yamada told reporters that Rengo was dissatisfied with this year's wage hikes.

In late March, unions representing workers in four major industries accepted wage increases of about 4.8 percent in negotiations with employers, while private railway trade unions staged a six-hour strike to gain a 15,700 yen monthly wage increase.

Yamada said Japanese workers have won cuts in working hours "to a satisfactory extent," adding that 1,805 unions affiliated with Rengo gained reduced working hours.

Rengo has made every effort to achieve the target of reducing annual working hours to 1,800 by 1993 as part of improving workers' standard of living, he said.

In fiscal 1991 that ended March 31, annual working hours in Japan averaged 2,006, or some 50 to 400 hours a year more than in the United States, Britain, France, and Germany, in that order.

Tokyo Urged To Give Priority to Work Hours Cut

OW2005123192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO—The government should give top priority to shortening individual working time to 1,800 hours a year by fiscal 1996, a government-commissioned report released Wednesday said.

Reaching this target would be an important step toward the government's goal of transforming Japan into a truly affluent nation, said the report, presented by a study group of labor experts to the economic council, an advisory panel to the prime minister.

The report suggested the government should alter as early as possible the law governing labor standards so as to introduce a five-day, 40-hour workweek in a step toward reducing annual working hours.

According to the Labor Ministry, the average Japanese worker worked 2,006 hours, including overtime, in fiscal 1991 that ended March 31.

The report came out as the council is drafting a five-year economic plan covering fiscal years 1992-1996 on behalf of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who has pledged to give the Japanese people lifestyles that reflect the nation's wealth.

In reducing work hours, the report said, both corporations and consumers must change their attitudes toward production and distribution, such as the frequent changes in car models and 24-hour retail outlets, as these systems block the shortening of work time.

On the controversial issue of how to deal with the increasing number of foreign workers in Japan, the report proposed creating a system to accept skilled and trained workers from overseas.

But it took a cautious view on unskilled foreigners, who the government bans from working in Japan.

Inukai Reappointed Head of KYODO News Service

OW2105084092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0817 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—The Board of KYODO NEWS SERVICE decided to reappoint Yasuhiko Inukai as president for a two-year term on Thursday, officials of the news agency said.

Inukai, 65, took the helm of KYODO, Japan's leading news agency, last September. His new two-year term begins following a scheduled general meeting of the news agency in mid-June.

The agency's executive director, Toshihiko Matsumiya, will be promoted to managing director, effective from mid-June.

New executive directors whose appointments are also effective from mid-June include Yuichiro Hayashi, chief editorial writer and former director of the international department, and Atsuo Kaneko, the present director of the international department.

The appointments will be formalized at a general meeting of the news agency on June 18 and a board meeting to take place immediately afterward.

New Computer Programming Language Developed

OW2105081792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0748 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 21 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. said Thursday it has developed a more concise programming language for designing semiconductor devices and writing documentation in computers.

The "concurrent object-oriented C (COOC)" language requires 90 percent less code to write programs derived from the popular C programming language, which is commonly used by programmers to develop commercial applications for computers, company officials said.

While developing software programs, many programmers are normally required to write mountains of computer code, the sets of symbols used to designate data or instructions.

Toshiba's COOC will also allow multiple tasks to be performed simultaneously by a large number of users, which will speed up the programming process of writing well-structured readable programs, the officials said.

COOC operates with a unix-based operating system (OS) and runs on Toshiba's workstations, which use reduced instruction set computing (RISC) microprocessors.

Toshiba now uses the program in-house, but will offer COOC to public and private research centers and universities nationwide before September. The institutions will be able to have the program for research and development purposes only, and not for business applications, the officials said.

Tokyo Pledges To Strive for Summit Success

OW2205022192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0104 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 22 KYODO—The government agreed Friday to actively cooperate with the international community to bring success to the Earth Summit to be held in Rio de Janeiro on June 3-14, government officials said. The agreement was made in a meeting of cabinet ministers concerned with environmental preservation affairs, the officials said. The government also approved at the meeting a report by the environment agency calling for more efforts on energy-saving, they said.

The agency reported that Japan emitted 318 million tons of carbon dioxide in 1990, up 3.7 percent from the previous year. Carbon dioxide, emitted by burning fossil fuels such as oil and coal, is considered one of the main

causes of the "greenhouse effect" that traps heat in the earth's atmosphere and contributes to global warming. The 318 million-ton figure equals about 10 times the weight of seawater in Tokyo Bay and also means that an average of 2.57 tons of carbon dioxide is produced per person in Japan annually.

Carbon dioxide emissions were relatively steady from 1982 to 1986 but have risen about 4 percent each year since 1986, meaning that Japan has become a more energy-wasting nation, the report said. Most countries, including West European countries and Japan, have set a target of holding carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by 2000.

The 1990-level target is expected to be incorporated in a convention on global warming to be adopted at the Earth Summit. In October 1990, Japan's government action plan for combating global warming set the carbon dioxide emission target for 2000 at the 1990 level per person.

The Environment Agency vowed to make efforts to promote the action plan and consider implementing legislation suitable for the age of global environmental concern, the officials said. The agency will also consider economic measures to tackle environmental preservation, they said.

North Korea

Japan Urged To Apologize, Compensate for 'Crimes'

SK2205050892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0431 GMT 22 May 92

["Japanese Side Must Frankly Admit Its Crimes and Reflect on Them"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 22 (KCNA)—Some quarters of Japan are running the whole gamut of sophism in an effort to justify at any cost the crimes committed by Japan against the Korean people in the past, far from sincerely reflecting on and apologizing for them.

This comes under fire in a NODONG SINMUN commentary today.

The analyst says:

The historical materials unearthed at Seoul National University recently have disclosed the fact that the "Ulsa five-point treaty" which had been known to have been concluded under the coercion of the Japanese imperialists in 1905 was a forgery and the "Chongmi seven-point treaty" in 1907 and all the "laws" promulgated on its basis were preposterous fakes.

These newly found historical facts irrefutably expose to the world what shameless and crafty, and brigandish and barbaric method the Japanese imperialists resorted to in the past to invade Korea. Nevertheless, some quarters of Japan now claim that the "treaties" and "laws" faked up by Japan without the ratification of the emperor of old Korea and even by forging emperor's signature were legal. This brings into bolder relief their political craftiness and moral inferiority.

This is an insult to and mockery of history. This is a brazen act for beautifying and whitewashing the colonial rule in the past days. With no amount of trash can they distort or conceal the hard historical facts or can they ever cover up the untold crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists in Korea in the bygone days.

The starting point of the solution of the problems in the DPRK-Japan relations is a sincere repentance for the mistaken past by Japan. For this, the Japanese authorities must frankly admit the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean people in the past and apologize and compensate for them.

Asian Nations Urged To Unite, Cooperate

SK2205101792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1003 GMT 22 May 92

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Unity and Cooperation in Building New Asia"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 22 (KCNA)—If the Asian nations unite and cooperate with one another and make the maximum of their potentials, they can successfully build a new Asia, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

It is the common aspiration and goal of the Asian people to build a new Asia, the article says, and goes on:

All the Asian countries have possibilities of making tangible contributions to building a new Asia.

What is important is for all of them to unite in good faith and cooperate with one another disinterestedly.

To this end, the Asian countries should not seek dominationist aims or treat others on an unequal footing from the sense of national superiority but should develop relations on the principles of genuine independence, equality and reciprocity. Only then can their common cause be accomplished at an early date.

To prevent a war and preserve peace is one of the important requirements for the building of a new Asia.

If the Asian countries vigorously fight in unity for the dismantlement of aggressive foreign military bases and for the creation of nuclear-free, peace zones in many areas, they will be able to achieve lasting peace in Asia.

The Korean people will firmly unite and closely cooperate with other Asian nations in accomplishing the common cause of building an independent, peaceful and prosperous new Asia.

CPRF on ROK Defense Ministry Budget Proposal

SK2205102892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1010 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 22 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) in its information No. 606 released today denounces the scheme of the South Korean "Ministry of Defence" to increase "defence appropriations" for next year to 9,840,000 million won, or 17 percent up on this year's.

The information says this is entirely contradictory to the spirit of the North-South Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange and an unpardonable act of laying one more obstacle in the way of improving inter-Korean relations and implementing the agreement.

The arms buildup of the South Korean authorities, it notes, shows that they are, in actuality, stepping up war preparations against the North after they agreed upon nonaggression with it.

Such act of the South Korean authorities at a time when the entire fellow countrymen want reconciliation and disarmament cannot but be a criminal act of totally denying peace in the country and its reunification, the information points out, adding:

If the South Korean authorities want to implement the nonaggression agreement, they must not increase the military spendings under the name of "defence appropriations", but cut them drastically and stop large-scale war exercises against the North.

Pyongyang Housing, City Construction Detailed

SK2105154592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1505 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 21 (KCNA)—Pyongyang is assuming more grand and beautiful looks each year.

In recent years the Workers' Party of Korea has unfolded bold and ambitious plans one after another for the construction of the capital to provide the citizens with better dwellings.

Kwangbok Street with high rise and ultra-high rise apartment houses for 20,000 families on each side of the main road 100 metres wide, the sports village of Chongchun Street and other monumental edifices, 260 objects all told, were built in peculiar styles in Pyongyang in three years toward the end of the 1980s.

In the first two years of the 90s Tongil Street which resembles a whole city, apartment houses for 50,000 families with a total floor space of more than 5.5 million square metres and many public buildings have been constructed. This is 1.5 times the scale of the construction which had been carried out in the preceding three years.

The ground was broken in the capital recently for another construction program aimed at building houses for 30,000 families in one year or more. The main point in this program is the second-stage construction of Tongil Street.

High rise and super-high rise apartment houses for 20,000 families and public service facilities have been built in a 5 kilometre section with the main road 120 metres wide as the axis in Tongil Street which has taken shape on the southern bank of the river Taedong in the capital.

In the second-stage construction the boulevard will be extended by 2.5 kilometres southward and the road along the river Taedong by several kilometres. And dwellings for 16,000 families will be built on each side of the main road and the riverside road in various architectural styles.

One of the main objects in the second-stage construction of Tongil Street is a bridge linking this street with Chongchun Street on the opposite bank of the river Taedong. The 5.6 kilometre long bridge consisting of a flyover and a suspension bridge will stretch to the sports village of Chongchun Street through the Turu Islet on the river Taedong.

Houses for 14,000 families will be built in Kwangbok Street and different places of the city and each dwelling block will have educational and cultural institutions such as school, kindergarten, nursery, cinema house, clinic and sports facilities and service networks.

When the construction is completed, Pyongyang will assume more splendid looks as the capital of chuche Korea.

Farms Accelerate Maize Seedling Transplanting

SK2205050192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0418 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 22 (KCNA)—Cooperative farms throughout the country are stepping up the transplanting of humus-pot maize seedlings at the final stage.

According to data available, seedlings had been transplanted in 90 percent of the nation's maize fields by May 21.

The transplanting of humus-pot maize seedlings has been finished on the cooperative farms in South and North Hwanghae Provinces and Kaesong Municipality which had made thorough going preparations for farming from the beginning of this year, the year of put-greater-efforts-into-agriculture.

Meanwhile, the transplanting of rice seedlings has entered the full-fledge stage in the western region.

Rice seedlings are transplanted in 7 percent of the paddy fields on a daily average, taking the country as a whole.

The cooperative farms in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, and other cooperative farms have already finished rice transplanting.

South Korea

3 DPRK Soldiers Killed in DMZ Firefight

SK2205112592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1111 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 22 (YONHAP)—Three North Korean soldiers were shot dead and a South Korean soldier was wounded Friday in an encounter in the southern part of the 4 kilometer-wide Demilitarized Zone north of Cholwon, Kangwon Province, the South Korean Counter-Infiltration Operation Command (CIOC) announced.

The incident occurred about 11:30 A.M. [0230 GMT] when a South Korean Army patrol team intercepted a group of armed North Korean infiltrators 1 kilometer south of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] during a routine mission.

The South Korean soldiers seized two AK rifles, one hand grenade, and a pistol at the clash site, the command said.

The wounded soldier was immediately evacuated to a military hospital in Seoul.

The U.N. Command said a joint team was dispatched to the area to conduct an investigation of the incident. It also said that it would call a meeting of the Military Armistice Commission to lodge a complaint with the North Korean side and probe into its intention.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Chong Hwa-on, a senior operations officer at the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the North Korean soldiers were wearing black uniforms. Initial field reports had it that their number was three, he added.

Another military officer said North Korea might have sent the soldiers in an effort to test the vigilance of the South Korean Army.

The incident was the first of its sort ever reported in the buffer zone since two North Korean soldiers were shot to death in an abortive attempt to sneak into the South through the MDL north of Kumhwa, Kangwon Province, in March 1980.

JNCC Head Says No Compromise on Nuclear Issue

SK2205092192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0758 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will not compromise on including military bases in inter-Korean mutual nuclear inspections and conducting 24-hour notice challenge inspections, Kong No-myong, southern-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), said Friday.

"There will be no progress in South-North Korean relations without first solving the nuclear problem," he said in a brief meeting with reporters.

South Korea was willing to open all and any U.S. military bases in its territory that North Korea suspects of hiding nuclear weapons, he said.

"If military bases are excluded from the inspections, all of our negotiating is useless," Kong said. "Where would North Korea hide its nuclear facilities and materials other than on military bases? We cannot allow such sanctuary."

South Korea insists on including both civilian and military installations in the inter-Korean nuclear inspection regime. It also insists on subjecting military facilities to challenge inspections, where one side can unilaterally designate a spot it wants to see with 24-hour advance notice.

North Korea says it will open only its Yongbyon complex, which is widely suspected of housing a nuclear reprocessing plant, in exchange for seeing all of the U.S. military installations in the South.

The two sides are to hold their third round of working-level negotiations Saturday on the text of the inspection agreement.

"We have a difficult road ahead of us," Kong said of Saturday's meeting.

The JNCC meets May 27, and Seoul and Pyongyang have been working to finalize an agreement text by then.

South Firms Allowed Free Hand in Special Zone

SK2005151892 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 20 May 92 p 2

[Text] North Korea is reported to have officially decided to allow South Korean businesses absolutely free participation in the special zone to be created in Najin and Sonbong.

North Korea is also reported to have decided to legislate four new sets of laws to allow foreign business firms free business activity in the special zone, including laws on enterprises entirely owned by foreigners and on income tax. In addition, North Korea will revise a joint venture law and put it in force by the third quarter of the year.

Those who participated in the forum on Northeast Asian economic affairs held in Pyongyang from 27 April to 4 May said that the North side's participants held separate talks with the South Korean delegation. The South Korean participants are said to have submitted a report to the government that at these separate meetings, Yi Kyong-il, vice chairman of North Korea's Committee for the Promotion of Economic Cooperation With Foreign Countries, had made clear North Korea's intention to allow the South Korean business firms absolutely free participation in the Najin and Sonbong special zone.

After confirming this, a government official said: According to this decision by the North Korean authorities, South Korean business firms are expected to increase their investment in the North when the nuclear inspection issue is resolved.

The same government official added: In a bid to make the environment in the special zone affordable, North Korea is expected to legislate four new sets of laws, including laws governing enterprises entirely owned by foreigners and the income tax to be paid by these enterprises, for the purpose of allowing foreign business firms to invest all the money needed to establish themselves in the special zone. In addition, North Korea will revise a joint venture law and by the third quarter of the year will have put into force five laws. This was made clear to the South Korean delegation to the forum by Kim Chong-u, vice minister of External Economic Affairs, in the separate meetings mentioned above.

The law on enterprises wholly owned by foreigners stipulates that investors can lease sites in the special zone through individual contracts for the duration of 20-30 years and that the investors will pay US $70-100 for unskilled laborers and US $100-140 for skilled ones.

Daewoo Allowed To Contact North Koreans

SK2005143692 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 20 May 92 p 1

[Text] On 21 April, Daewoo Group applied for permission for eight of its officials to hold contacts with North Korean residents on South-North economic exchange. Therefore, as of 18 May the government allowed Daewoo Group to hold contacts with North Korean residents.

According to the Ministry of the Board of National Unification on 20 May, if over the next five years Daewoo Group notifies the government of the results of each contact with the North Korean residents, the government will allow Daewoo Group freely to have contacts with North Korean residents through direct and indirect methods.

Eight Daewoo Group officials, including Kim Ok-nyon, chief secretary to the Daewoo Group chairman (president level), are hoping to hold contacts with North Korean officials of 10 businesses, including the Choson Ponghwa General Company, and discuss the import and export of various products, including zinc ingots, hot coils, cement, fisheries products, agricultural products, textiles, light industry products, herbs, and electronic products.

Officials from Daewoo Group say that since they received approval from the government to hold contacts with North Korean residents, they are planning to meet with North Korean officials about the work to build a joint venture plant in Nampo which was agreed upon when Chairman Kim U-chung visited North Korea last January. When considering that this project was withheld because of political issues, including the nuclear inspection issue, it is likely that the meeting will be held in a third country location, such as Beijing, soon. It is expected that at the meeting both sides will explain their current situation to each other and hold discussions on what projects to do in the future. Also, judging from the existing situation, it was learned that promotion for a visit to North Korea by Daewoo officials can also be carried out.

The Ministry of the Board of National Unification also allowed three businessmen from the Samsong Trading Company to hold contacts with North Korean residents. It is also expected that the government will allow other trading companies, such as the Lucky-Goldstar Trading Company, the Hyundai General Company, and Songyong, to hold contacts with North Korean residents.

It was learned that no decision has been made yet by the Ministry of the Board of National Unification on whether to allow Chairman Kim U-chung to hold contacts with North Korean residents, for which he applied in April.

In connection with joint venture economic cooperation, such as building a plant in Nampo by Daewoo Group, an official of the Ministry of the Board of National Unification said: "It will be possible only when the nuclear inspection issue is resolved. We will continue to allow businesses to hold contacts with North Korean residents for importing and exporting products."

However, currently businessmen of 14 companies, including Kim Song-hun, representative of Korean Steel Pipe, which deals with steel pipe plant projects, who applied for permission to hold contacts with North Korean residents for economic cooperation with North Korea, are still waiting.

Yonsei University Seeks Ties With North School

SK2005150392 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 20 May 92 p 23

[Text] Yonsei University is earnestly pushing for establishing sister relations with Kim Il-song University in North Korea.

Yonsei University sent a letter via Daewoo Group Chairman Kim U-chung, a graduate of Yonsei University who went to North Korea last 15 January, to a high-ranking North Korean Workers Party cadre proposing the establishment of sister relations between itself and Kim Il-song University and plans to discuss with the North side the proposal in details when Chairman Kim visits North Korea early next month.

The Yonsei University proposal, which is entirely different from the proposals advanced unilaterally to the

North side in the past by student bodies of some universities and colleges on such occasions as news conferences, is expected to open a momentous phase in academic and cultural exchange between the institutions of higher learning in the South and North.

In the letter delivered to the North side through Chairman Kim, Yonsei University proposed to Kim Il-song University to conduct an exchange of students and professors, an exchange of data and information, and joint academic research projects.

In the letter, Yonsei University also invited Pak Kwan-o, president of Kim Il-song University, to officially visit Yonsei University "at any convenient time."

According to Yonsei University, the cadre of the North Korean party who received the letter said that "I will study it thoroughly" through Chairman Kim.

Press Center Planned for Panmunjom Liaison Office

SK2105063692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0456 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 21 (YONHAP)—The government plans to open a press center at the inter-Korean liaison office for local and foreign reporters, officials said Thursday.

The Information Ministry notified the Secretariat for South-North Korean Dialogue of its plans Wednesday, they said.

Seoul and Pyongyang opened liaison offices in their own sides of the Joint Security Area at the truce village of Panmunjom May 18, establishing the first government-level channel of contact since Korea was divided in 1945.

The press center will be approximately 350 pyong (1,155 square meters) and have separate facilities for South Korean, North Korean and foreign reporters. It will also have a room for press conferences.

It will be staffed by four people from the Ministry.

Reporters currently use the press room in Peace House in the Southern side of Panmunjom.

Ruling Circles' View of Kim Yong-sam Examined

SK2205055392 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 21 May 92 p 2

[Article by reporters Kim Hyon-il and Choe Hun: "How Do the Ruling Circles View Candidate Kim Yong-sam?"]

[Text] Government officials, business circles, and the military—the elements that make up the ruling circles which have played a role in propping up power—are now showing uneasiness unheard of before. It is because in the face of the taxing task of making things easier for the ruling circles' continued stay in power, they now find the way the political situation is run ominous and unusual following the nomination of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam as the party's presidential candidate. Simply put, those who are lined up in the ruling circles are less convinced that they will come back to power than during any previous transitional periods.

Even those in the ruling circles who have been busy pledging their allegiance to candidate Kim are now looking around at the people around them. On the whole, they appear to be uneasy.

With President No Tae-u, as a lame duck, clearly losing his authority and lawmaker Yi Chong-chan on his way toward splintering from the DLP, a division within the ruling circles appears to be inevitable. Chong Chu-yong, presidential candidate of the Unification National Party [UNP], is not only eating away at the votes from districts traditionally considered ruling party strongholds, but has also shattered the orderliness in business circles which the ruling circles have regarded as a major power base.

Such a mood, keenly felt by those in the ruling circles, has greatly shaken the ruling circles' strategy that the DLP can win in the presidential election with whatever candidate it may choose in competition with Kim Tae-chung, co-chairman of the Democratic Party [DP] who is expected to win less than 30 percent of votes from his party members. In other words, in an objective view Co-chairman Kim Tae-chung now stands a greater chance of coming to power than ever.

This being the case, some among those who pretend to be lining up behind the ruling circles are, in fact, on the move to have secret contacts with the DP and the UNP, revealing a gaping hole in the ruling circles' strategy for the presidential election.

Of course, the prevailing view in the ruling circles is that the ruling party will enjoy an upper hand in a presidential election in which 4 to 5 candidates compete, citing the results of a recent poll. According to this poll, the DLP will possibly win the presidential election after an arduous fight on the strength of Candidate Kim Yong-sam's sweeping power. Nevertheless, those in the ruling circles are uneasy about the ruling party's preparations which they find to be more inadequate than during the 13th presidential election.

When Chon Tu-hwan was handing over power to No Tae-u five years ago, the ruling party and the pro-ruling party circles were in perfect order. Taking advantage of his still undiminished authority and the power at his disposal, President Chon took the lead in making No Tae-u a president and the pan-ruling circles volunteered to help him fearing a strong challenge from the two Kims.

At the time, President Chon collected a staggering amount of political funds to spend on the presidential election, so much so that rumors of his funneling 2,000 billion won to candidate No to be used solely to raise his popularity sound credible. President Chon kept making

his power felt in every corner of the administrative institutions across the country until his retirement.

People in ruling circles say that the problem lies in the present, entirely different situation. A widely circulated theory, gaining credibility, says that President No is in no position to follow what Chon did, nor does he have the intention of doing so.

There is no disagreement among the ruling circles that this is true of President No's operation of organizations and raising of funds. Since President No's lame duck status began to show long ago, it is unlikely that his belated stick-wielding will put the house in order.

By nature the ruling circles, including the bureaucrats, operate properly only when they are provided with conviction and hope for their future.

As was shown in the National Assembly hearing on the wrongdoings of the Fifth Republic, nothing will persuade those in the ruling circles who are convinced that they have nobody to protect them to behave properly. Given orders, more often than not, they will just pretend to obey, but will stop behaving the instant they sense that they are not being observed. Moreover, in the eyes of those in the ruling circles, candidate Kim is a man with completely different roots. Nobody knows to what extent he will rock the organizational base of the ruling circles when he comes to power.

In the past, it was customary that government officials return to their old posts with a promotion after a stint at Chongwadae. However, an increasing number of the government officials working at Chongwadae now hope that they can come back to their old posts even without the customary promotion as soon as possible. This is an eloquent expression of the realities of the bureaucratic world. The military establishment, which finds it impossible to continue the close government ties, which have endured for the past 30 years, remains a spectator under the pretext of heeding public sentiment.

Such an awakening on the part of the military leadership is due primarily to the result of reflection on its past conduct. But it is also due to a recent realization that the military leaders' words fall on the deaf ears of the soldiers who constitute the majority of the voters as demonstrated by the charges of tampering with absentee military votes in recent parliamentary elections.

Businessmen remain wary of this phenomenon, even though they are no less disaffected. Businessmen seem to be resigned to the idea that they have to find their own method of survival in that the No regime has neither the intention to ease financial difficulties nor has it convinced them that the ruling circle will stay in power after the presidential election. Businessmen are lukewarm toward the ruling circles. Instead, they show little enthusiasm about finding ways to pipe financial aid to candidate Kim.

Cold currents flowing through the ruling circles are greatly obstructive to creating harmony between Chongwadae and candidate Kim, a crucial factor for fine-tuning strategy for the presidential election to be worked out and put into operation. Therefore, the ruling circles are likely to remain in an analytical stage and agonize over what steps to take.

Kim Tae-chung Not To Give Up Assembly Seat

SK2205060792 Seoul YONHAP in English
0523 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 22 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, co-leader of the major opposition Democratic Party [DP], said Friday he would not give up his National Assembly seat even if he ran for president.

Kim also told reporters that he would not seek party hegemony again, regardless of the outcome of the presidential election, accepting co-leader Yi Ki-taek faction's demand that he retreat to the sidelines following the election.

He later submitted applications for nomination as party presidential candidate and for a seat on the Supreme Council.

Kim's application for the presidential nomination was accompanied by the recommendations of 368 delegates to the party convention, and that for co-chairman of the council by those of 282 delegates.

Yi Ki-taek, who leads the other faction in the DP, followed by handing in the recommendations of 367 delegates for the presidential candidacy and co-chairmanship of the council.

There will be no election of the co-chairmen, and the two will be named to the top position unanimously in a party national convention on May 26.

The eight other seats on the Supreme Council are expected to attract 14 applicants. Of them, Kim Won-ki, Kim Yong-pae, Cho Se- hyong, Pak Yong-suk, Chong Tae-chol and Yi U-chong from Kim Tae-chung's faction completed registration of their candidacy on Friday morning.

Cho Sun-hyong, Yi Pu-yong, Kim Hyon-kyu, Kim Chung-kil and Chang Ki-uk of Yi Ki-taek's faction and Kim Sang-hyon, Pak il, and Pak Yong-nok of Kim Tae-chung's faction were to follow suit later in the day.

It was highly likely that each faction would have five members on the Supreme Council, party sources said.

The two major factions reached an accord on the schedule of the May 25-26 party convention at a contact Thursday night. Kim's faction accepted the demand of Yi's faction that the presidential candidate and supreme members be chosen separately.

Loan Repayment Guarantee Demanded From Russia

SK2205021692 Seoul YONHAP in English
0144 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea demanded Thursday that Russia give a written guarantee of full payment of principal and interest on loans of 1.47 billion U.S. dollars.

Guarantees made last November by Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee, were void as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) replaced the Soviet Union a month later, Assistant Finance Minister Yi Hwan-kyun said.

Yi demanded that the Russian Federation, as the successor government, guarantee the entire amount.

Russian officials said that it was realistically difficult for the Federation to take responsibility for the entire amount, but they promised to give priority consideration to South Korea when domestic economic conditions improved, Korean sources said.

Yi is here for working-level negotiations on resuming the 3 billion-dollar economic aid package that was suspended late last year when the Soviet Union crumbled.

Seoul has given 1.47 billion dollars so far in aid, 1 billion dollars in bank loans and 470 million dollars in tied loans.

The CIS was to pay 22 million dollars in interest on the bank loans earlier this week but was unable to do so.

Yi told the Russian officials of rising concern in Korea after they failed to make the interest payment and urged them to put in writing approximately when they would be able to give the money to Seoul.

Alexsandr Shokhin, deputy Russian prime minister, said in Seoul earlier this month that while the Russian Federation had received all of the tied loans so far, the cash loans were shared with other republics and Russia took about 61 percent.

Russia Requests Additional Loans

SK2205011792 Seoul YONHAP in English
0036 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 21 (YONHAP)—While rough sailing is expected in negotiations between South Korea and Russia on loan payments, Moscow has asked for additional loans for resources development.

In the first Korea-Russia talks on resources development, Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Vladimir Lapukhin asked his South Korean counterpart, Chin Nyom, for an unannounced amount of loan.

Chin did not answer the request, but said that it could be positively considered by his government because repayment would be made in the form of energy, Korean officials said.

Chin called on Lapukhin to let South Korean firms take part in the development of natural gas deposits in Yakutsk, oil wells in Sakhalin and in the construction of a gas pipeline linking northeast China, North Korea and South Korea.

Lapukhin said his government would consider South Korea's interest in those projects. The construction of a gas pipeline was being positively studied and international bidding would be conducted for the drilling of oil wells in Sakhalin after a feasibility study, he said.

He said his government would work out rules on the development of natural gas and petroleum in the near future to induce foreign investment for the exploitation of natural resources.

Russia would actively introduce loans from Western countries to replace and refurbish its worn-out facilities for energy development, he said.

Article Discusses Expected Army Personnel Shuffle

SK2105144192 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
19 May 92 p 22

[Article by reporter An Chae-hyon]

[Text] The regular personnel reshuffle of military generals is scheduled to be take place later this month or in early June at the latest. In the Defense Ministry and within and outside the Army, attention is now focused on the impending personnel action.

The greatest matter of interest concerns General Yi Mun-sok (54, graduate of the 17th class of the Korea Military Academy [KMA]), whose two-year term in office as the commanding general of the First Army expires on 9 June. Two senior lieutenant generals who are classmates of Yi Pil-sop (54, 16th class of the KMA), chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appear likely to be transferred to the reserves since they will have attained the retirement age for their time in rank (four years) in June. This will be followed by personnel action to promote major generals to the rank of lieutenant general. The transfer of some lieutenant generals is considered inevitable, since two corps commanding generals' two-year terms in their respective offices will expire in June, as well.

Additionally, if senior lieutenant generals who are graduates from KMA 16th-18th classes are to be included in the personnel action for transfers originally scheduled for late this year, the range of the personnel action this time will be even wider than expected.

A leading group of brigadier generals who are graduates of the KMA 23d class are certain to be promoted to the rank of major general and appointed to the posts of division commanders. Some other brigadier generals are likely to be promoted to the rank of major general, as well.

In the case of General Yi Mun-sok, the focal point of interest is whether he will be transferred to the reserves upon expiration of his term in office or transferred to another four-star general post.

He was promoted to the rank of four-star general in June 1990 as the first one among the KMA 17th class graduates and was appointed the First Army commanding general. Late last year, there was a large-scale personnel reshuffle that affected five of the seven Army generals, including the chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff and the army chief of staff. Even in that personnel action, Yi was retained in the post.

The Army has seven four-star generals. Five were appointed last December. Also, Song Ung-sop (55, 16th KMA class), first vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was promoted to the rank of four-star general in December 1990. Because only six months have passed since the five generals' appointment, General Yi's maneuvering room is extremely limited. Yet, one cannot rule out the possibility of his being appointed to the post of commander of the Ground Component Command of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command later this year.

However, when General Kim Chin-yong (53), his classmate, was appointed the post of Army chief of staff, General Yi remained in his original post. Also, as many as four of his KMA classmates are four-star generals. In this respect, some people believe, he will honorably retire.

Other people believe that, because General Yi was a regimental commander under President No when No was the commander of the Ninth Division and because General Yi was the first among his classmates to be promoted to the ranks of four-star general, he may be transferred to another post.

If General Yi retires, the June reshuffle will merely fill one of the seven four-star-general posts. However, if he is transferred to another post, this will surely create a great repercussion.

The seven four-star generals are Yi Pil-sop (16th KMA class), chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Kim Chin-yong (17th KMA class), Army chief of staff; Yi Mun-sok (17th KMA class), commanding general of the First Army; Kim Yon-ok (17th KMA class), commanding general of the Second Army; Ku Chang-hoe (18th KMA class), commanding general of the Third Army; Song Ung-sop (16th KMA class), first vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Kim Tong-chin (17th KMA class), coming deputy general of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command.

It is generally believed that if one four-star general post becomes empty in the June reshuffle, one of the leading lieutenant generals from the 18th class will be promoted to the post of four-star general following Ku Chang-hoe, commanding general of the Third Army who became the first four-star general among his classmates of the KMA 18th class.

Cho Nam-pung, commander of the Military Training and Indoctrination Command; Kim Chae-chang, director of the Policy and Plans Office of the Defense Ministry; and Kim Chong-hon, commandant of the KMA; are the leaders of the lieutenant generals from the 18th class.

Also, those from the 18th and 19th classes, an ROTC general, and two from the 20th class are serving as Army corps commanders. The term in office of two of the corps commanders will soon expire. So, those from the 20th class will mostly likely fill those posts. However, the last-ditch challenge from those from the 19th class is also strong.

The two corps commanders are An Pyong-ho, commander of the Capital Garrison Command, and Yi Chae-tal, commander of the Seventh Corps, who replaced Lieutenant General Yi Hyon-u, who was killed in a helicopter accident. If more of those from the 20th class are appointed corps commander in addition to the aforementioned two, the group of those from the 20th class will have a bigger share in the post of corps commanders. Some leaders among the major generals from the 21st class will be appointed corps commanders.

Leaders of the 23d class are also scheduled to be promoted to the post of division commanders, most of whom are those from the 21st and 22d class.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Nationals Urged To Prepare for Bangkok Evacuation

BK2005173092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1430 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Malaysia views the current antigovernment rallies in Bangkok as Thailand's internal affair which needs no external interference. Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said he hoped the situation in the Thai capital would return to normal soon through negotiations. It is not necessary for Malaysian nationals in Bangkok to leave the country immediately because the situation there is under control. However, they must be ready for possible evacuation. The deputy minister was speaking to reporters in Johor Bahru.

Paper Examines Thai Politics, Protests

BK2105132792 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 May 92 p 10

[Editorial: "When the Guns Go Marching In"]

[Text] The rising death toll among pro-democracy protesters in Thailand as the military starts to turn its guns against civilians threatens to snuff out fledgling democracy in the country. "Died under gun-point" could be the epitaph for the democracy movement in Thailand if the military, with its arsenal and 200,000-strong force at its disposal, choses to stick to its guns and its claim to political power—come what may.

The military coup in February last year against an elected Government was explained as an anti-corruption crusade and with the promise of a return to full democracy through an election. It was the 17th coup since absolute monarchy was abolished in 1932. The Thais accepted it for what it was with bouquets and little hostility; although some suspicions had surfaced even then about the military's true intentions.

Suchinda Kraprayun never harboured any political ambitions. It just so happened that the results of the March elections were so inconclusive there were no evident winners; it just so happened that the man designated by the pro-army coalition to lead the country back to democracy lost the backing of the army after he was suspectd of being a drug lord. And it just so happened that the new constitution allows a non-elected member of Parliament to become the country's 19th prime minister.

The military has always been the puppeteer in Thai politics, with few exceptions. Sometimes, however, covert power alone is insufficient, particularly since democracy movements elsewhere have meant the toppling of military-backed Governments.

Military coups in Thailand are as common an event as the changing of the guards. The Thais could afford to be blase because they were all largely bloodless. It's not fun and games this time around however, because the army's guns are being turned on the people.

Popular acceptance of coups as a way of political life in Thailand has ended. It demonstrats that democracy and militarism cannot necessarily be mixed in the governance of a country. It is yet another lesson for us to continue to respect each other's authority and the line of democraction between politics and military power.

We must take pride in our Armed Forces that they have never turned on the people but instead have kept to their constitutional functions as the protector of the nation and its people. The day the military decides to expand its horizons and flex its might on the political institutions in the country will mark the end of democracy in Malaysia.

All too often, military might and guns which have been acquired to defend the country and for the protection of its citizens are being used instead to kill its own people.

Latest reports say that the shoot-to-kill policy is still in force but talks have been initiated between the military and demonstration leaders. There is hope that sanity will prevail, that the wishes of the people are heard and not shot; that the bloodshed will end soon.

Already, the damage would have been done to the country's booming economy. Already, some countries have advised their nationals to leave the country or, if they cannot, to keep away from troubled spots. Intending visitors have also been advised to stay away.

These are negative developments which will take a long time before the international community can accept Thailand as a stable country. It will take even longer if the country is governed by the gun. (enjdall) 20 may

Singapore

Officials Concerned About Increased Ship Attacks

BK2105153192 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 21 May 92 p 21

[Text] Singapore and Indonesia are both concerned about the rising number of attacks on ships, especially in the Phillips Channel, and are discussing measures to solve the problem.

A joint statement by both countries was released yesterday, on the second day of a visit by the Indonesian Armed Forces Chief of Joint Staff, Vice-Admiral Sudibyo Raharjo, and his team.

The delegation is in Singapore to discuss areas of defence co-operation between the Indonesian and Singapore armed forces.

This includes the possibility of co-ordinated patrol arrangements between the two navies.

During his visit, Vice-Admiral Sudibyo called on Major-General Ng Ji Ping, the Acting Chief of Defence Force and Chief of Army.

He also went on an aerial reconnaissance flight in a RSAF [Republic of Singapore Air Force] Super Puma helicopter to survey the Phillips Channel.

Many of last year's 61 pirate attacks took place in or near the channel, an 8-kmk-long passage south of Singapore in Indonesian waters.

To date, five ships have been hit there. The increasing number of attacks on ships has caused concern among shipowners and prompted the Federation of Asean Shipowners Association to urge Asean nations to come together to solve the problem.

Vice-Admiral Sudibyo and his team will be in Singapore till tomorrow.

The Mindef [Ministry of Defense] team is led by Colonel Lee Hsien Yang, director Joint Operations and Planning Directorate.

Paper Calls for End to Bangkok Violence

BK2105163592 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 20 May 92 p 26

[Editorial: "Stop the Violence"]

[Text] While the outbreak of violence in Bangkok is immensely regrettable, it is undeniable that the immediate provocation was grave. According to Thai Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun, who is at the centre of the continuing political crisis, it was opposition leader Major-General Chamlong Simuang who instigated the massing crowds, causing troops to use force. Whatever the truth of that assertion, reports do say that the clashes began when the security forces, which had brought in water cannon—hardly a lethal weapon—to disperse the protesters, were attacked with rocks, metal rods and petrol bombs on Sunday night. Over the next two days, a police station was torched, government buildings were set on fire, motorcycle gangs went around Bangkok destroying public property and the city moved towards anarchy. All these constituted serious law-and-order threats that needed to be met, and it appears that they have been met. The protesters have been scattered, and policemen and troops are said to be mopping up residual resistance to the state of emergency that has been declared in Bangkok and surrounding areas. However, it is unclear whether the intense firing, which claimed dozens of lives, was either necessary or that it would keep the situation from deteriorating again. In such matters, street violence is partly politics by other means. While the means are wrong, it is the cause that has to be resolved politically if the situation is to be resolved effectively.

The precise mechanism of a resolution depends, of course, on Thais themselves, but a compromise seems the only way out, not least because there are contradictions in the positions of both the protesters and the embattled government. The demonstrators are fighting against what they see as manifold betrayals by General Suchinda: his decision to accept the premiership after saying that he would not; his inclusion in the Cabinet of members who were not known for their honesty in the Chatchai Chunhawan government, which he overthrew because of its alleged corruption; and, lastly, his reneging on a pledge to allow constitutional amendments that would make it necessary for the Premier to be elected.

However, it would be unrealistic to believe that the opposition politicians who are using the crowds to make these points against Gen Suchinda are fighting to defend political principles and not political interests—their own. There is a great deal of self- serving politicking going on in Thailand, in which the opposition is implicated as much as anyone else: What is tragic is that ordinary Thais have to pay for it. All this is dramatised by the violence: Did opposition leaders count the consequences of their actions in terms of the innocent lives and property destroyed in the rioting? But, again, this does not detract from the fact that many of the criticisms against the government are genuine, and that force is neither a proper nor an effective answer to them, at least over the long term. There are, thus, no perfect answers, no either/or solution. What is needed is a non-confrontational way of diffusing the crisis, which may otherwise come to pose questions about Thailand's social stability and the ambitious economic plans that depend on that stability. Which Prime Minister would like to be held responsible for that?

A speedy resolution of the crisis is necessary also because, with every passing day, the stakes will get higher. In the absence of a compromise, opposition demands may become more extreme, attracting a like response from the government. A compromise in which those in power do make real changes, but without losing face, would be ideal. Every day that compromise is deferred, the ideal recedes yet a little more. Every day someone decides to play a little longer for time, time actually runs short a little more. The scarred and anguished streets of Bangkok call out for real political action—now.

Cambodia

Son Sann Chairs KPNLF Congress in Phnom Penh

BK2205061492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] On 21 May, the second congress of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, president of the KPNLF and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], in the national complex stadium in the Cambodian capital city with the participation of 8,000 people, including the front's members from the provinces across the country,

Phnom Penh City, overseas, and camps along the Cambodian-Thai border; some 50 Buddhist monks; the representative of H.E. Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]; ambassadors accredited to the SNC, and the envoys of the five major countries.

At 0830, H.E. Son Sann and madame, accompanied by H.E. Ieng Muli, KPNLF secretary general and SNC member; and some high-ranking aides arrived at the stadium under the protection of UNTAC troops.

The congress was conducted with the presentation of emotional petitions of enthusiastic support [for the KPNLF] and opposition against the presence of Vietnamese enemy aggressors in Cambodia, the return of the genocidal regime, and the corrupt practices in the country.

The congress proceeded successfully with cheers and applauses and halted at 1730. It will resume on Friday 22 May.

KPNLF Army Chief Not Included

BK2205064392 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0433 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 22—The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) opened its two-day congress Thursday [21 May], the first to be held in the capital in decades by a Cambodian opposition faction.

The congress was opened with the aim to transform the armed movement led by Son Sann, who is also member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, into a political party ahead of the election scheduled for next year.

The KPNLF will be known from Friday as the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, said Son Sann in his opening speech.

KPNLF's commander-in-chief General Sak Sutsakhan has stated in his interview with TVK (Television Kampuchea) that he had not been informed of the congress in which he would not participate.

Son Sann who is the main supporter of Lon Nol regime, notorious for its corruption, and whose movement has been allying itself with the Khmer Rouge who are responsible for the death of more than three million Cambodian people during their nearly four-year reign recalled that the KPNLF had been formed in 1980 "to defend the Cambodian people against their enemies—the Vietnamese, the Khmer Rouge, and the corrupt officials."

SNC chairman, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and military chief of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, John Sanderson, have said that there were no presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia.

Prince Sihanouk and UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi have been invited to the two-day congress but they did not attend.

Party Changes Name

BK2205102192 Hong Kong AFP in English
1004 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 22 (AFP)—The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) on Friday, the second day of its congress here, transformed itself into a political party called the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP).

Some 3,000 delegates to the congress elected KPNLF leader Son Sann as BLDP president, his son Soubert as vice president and Ieng Mouly as secretary-general.

Son Sann, a former Cambodian prime minister, and Ieng Mouly are the group's two representatives on the Supreme National Council (SNC), a reconciliation body headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk that groups all four Cambodian factions.

The KPLNF was one of two non-communist guerrilla factions that fought along with the Khmer Rouge in the 13-year war against the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh regime following the December 1978 invasion of Cambodia by Vietnam.

The party congress adopted a political program calling for a "free, independent and neutral" Cambodia with a market economy.

KPNLF officials said during the congress that the group claimed more than 22,000 members throughout Cambodia.

The congress of the KPNLF—whose security has been assured by the U.N. Transitional Authority on Cambodia (UNTAC)—was the first such opposition gathering to be held in Phnom Penh in decades.

UNTAC is responsible for implementing the peace plan adopted in October in Paris under which elections will be held in one year. Parties wishing to participate in the elections must submit lists of at least 5,000 supporters.

SPK Reports on Hor Namhong Interview

BK2105055392 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0419 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 21—Foreign Minister Hor Namhong has called on the United Nations to get tougher with the Khmer Rouge, which he accused of blocking the Cambodian peace plan, reports AFP.

In an interview with AFP Tuesday [19 May], he said everyone had gone along with the Khmer Rouge up to now, but the time had come for the United Nations and the countries reponsible for implementing the Paris peace accords to "assume their responsibilities and take some decisions."

He said obstacles created by the Khmer Rouge included ceasefire violations and a dilatory attitude toward regular meetings between the various Cambodian factions aimed at implementing the peace plan.

Hor Namhong said the head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, had all the authority necessary, under the Paris agreements, to settle differences.

The peace accord, signed in October, gives the United Nations wide powers during the transitional run up to general elections next year aimed at settling the 13-year-old Cambodian conflict.

During this period the United Nations has to make a ceasefire effective, demobilise 70 percent of the armed forces of the three opposition factions and the Phnom Penh regime, and disarm them before the polls.

The foreign minister estimated that this phase of the plan, due to begin on June 13, could not start until all zones occupied by the various factions were open to UNTAC.

Until now the Khmer Rouge delayed allowing the United Nations to enter zones under its control in the west and north of the country.

Hor Namhong said the Cambodian conflict was unique because of the Khmer Rouge, held responsible for the deaths of a million people during its rule from 1975 until the Vietnamese invasion in December 1978.

But to ensure this, two measures were essential, said Hor Namhong—a good policy towards the peasants and a massive clampdown on corruption.

UNTAC Says KR Committing Truce Violations

BK2205065192 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0407 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 21 May (SPK)—"Everything in the second phase of the implementation of the Paris peace accord will be better if the cease-fire is strictly respected," said General Michel Loridon, deputy head of the military wing of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

Gen. Loridon, who presided over a recent meeting of generals representing the four Cambodian parties, expressed his indignation over truce violations repeatedly committed by the Khmer Rouge.

"The Khmer Rouge launched those illegal offensives to expand their territories while the other parties are ready to start the process of regrouping troops in accordance with UNTAC's plan," he added.

According to a report presented by UNTAC at the meeting, the Khmer Rouge recently opened fired on troops of Prince Ranariddh's National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] and of Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front in the district of Stoeng Trang of Kompong Cham Province while the latter were preparing to depart for a UNTAC-designated regrouping center.

In addition, Khmer Rouge elements from Division 320 on 14 May fired several shells on Kdol Tahen commune, Bavel District, Battambang Province, killing seven civilians and injuring six others, the report added.

Gen. Loridon expressed his regret at those activities and demanded that all the parties, especially those who committed violations, again honor their pledges to unconditionally observe the cease-fire.

UNTAC's deputy military head was also displeased with the ways used by the Khmer Rouge representatives to cover up their aggressive activities against the other parties by always repeating the same old unfounded melody about the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. The general required the Khmer Rouge to provide authentic proof for substantiating their accusations that a convoy of trucks loaded with ammunition was sent on 4 May to the west of the country, especially the provinces of Siem Reap and Battambang, for offensives against the Khmer Rouge.

He considered "unfounded" another accusation by the Khmer Rouge that areas under their control have been attacked by the other parties since 27 November 1991.

"So far, the Khmer Rouge have not yet authorized UNTAC to supervise their zones," the general pointed out.

SRV Troops Allegedly Lay Mines in Kompong Thom

BK2205014292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 May 92

[Excerpt] According to a report from Kompong Thom Province, from 18 to 20 May 1992 the Vietnamese aggressors sent by road tens of thousands of mines to their forces stationed in the province to be strewn on Route 12, specifically around Ta Aok Village in Sala Visai Commune. The report added that these assorted mines cannot be discovered by ordinary detectors. [Passage omitted]

Philippines

Comelec To Investigate Possible Vote Padding

HK2205015692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] has admitted for the first time that there may have been vote padding or deliberate attempts to bloat the result of the presidential election. In view of this, the MCQC formally asked the Commission on Elections [Comelec] to investigate reports that several municipal and provincial canvassers were involved in the cheating. In his letter to

Comelec chairman Christian Monsod, MCQC vice chairman Raul Locsin said the refusal by a majority of the municipal treasurers to give advance certificate of election returns is suspicious. Locsin said that based on field reports, he also suspects there are some elements tampering with the integrity of the electoral documents. However, Locsin stressed that they are not responsible for the fraud and they will continue their canvassing for the presidential and vice presidential slots.

Santiago To Begin Series of Protest Rallies

HK2205030592 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 22 May 92 pp 1, 6

[By Gemma Tampus]

[Text] Presidential candiate Miriam Defensor-Santiago finally decided to start today a series of mass actions nationwide in an effort to win public support for her claim that the May 11 elections had been marred by widespread fraud.

The protest actions will begin tonight with a "prayer vigil" to be led by Santiago herself in front of the Media-Citizens Quick Count (MCQC) headquarters in Greenhills, San Juan. The MCQC is the only group authorized by the Commission on Elections to conduct a parallel count of election results.

Santiago has accused the MCQC of manipulating its tabulations to favor the administration candidate, former defense secretary Fidel Ramos. She had led the seven-cornered contest in the first few days of the counting, but has been overtaken by Ramos by nearly a million votes, and as of last night by previously third-placer Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Her People's Reform Party (PRP) sent out invitations yesterday to supporters in Metro Manila, considered her stronghold, for the vigil at the MCQC tabulation center.

Tomorrow, the PRP said, Santiago will lead a mass demonstration in San Pablo City, Laguna. She will lead similar rallies in Bacolod on Saturday and Zamboanga on Sunday.

PRP officials said they expect to draw big crowds in the three cities, where Santiago enjoyed a wide margin over Ramos.

Santiago held her first protest rally in Iloilo, her home province, five days after the elections when Ramos edged her out of the number one spot. About 50,000 supporters joined the rally.

Asked why no street protests had been planned for Metro Manila, a PRP official who did not want to be identified said the area was "difficult to control."

Santiago had also vowed to mobilize students to join her cause.

On Tuesday, Santiago appeared at a news conference where she again condemned the supposed poll fraud and likened it in "size, proportion and insolence" to the one perpetrated by President Marcos in the 1986 snap elections.

But apart from the statistical studies and a few documents citing cases of "selective reporting" of votes, Santiago failed to produce hard evidence that would stand up in court.

Asked to explain, Santiago said, "It was not yet necessary (at this time) to present proof beyond reasonable doubt."

The PRP officials said they were determined to push through with the demonstrations despite threats they claimed to have received from their opponents in recent days.

The Comelec [Commission on Elections], sought for a reaction on Santiago's plan, said she is free to stage the demonstrations for as long as these are peaceful.

Santiago is free to "speak what is on her mind as long as her statements do not present a clear and present danger to national security," Commissioner Haydee Yorac said.

Matilde Fuentes, PRP office manager, said she had received two or three anonymous phone calls warning that Santiago "would get shot during a motorcade" or "get killed on stage." She said Santiago was "amused" by the threats.

Yesterday morning, two red ribbons were placed in front of the PRP headquarters on EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] in Mandaluyong. A security guard said they were on "red alert."

The Catholic church had earlier indicated that it would support Santiago's protest actions against election fraud provided she is able to back up her claims with evidence.

Santiago's spokesman, Maribel Ongpin, admitted it would be "very difficult" for them to present evidence of massive fraud now and to do so might take them months. She said Santiago would also not bring her case to court yet.

The PRP also accused the Ramos camp of using sequestered newspapers, radio and TV stations to manipulate the election results.

"They make it appear that Ramos is winning through the use of sequestered newspapers, radio and TV stations and by malicious manipulation of the reporting of the votes at the MCQC," a statement signed by Ongpin and former Batangas governor Antonio Leviste said.

The statement said the MCQC count is being deliberately slowed so "political warlords" can fix poll results at the local level in favor of Ramos.

It also said that the Ramos camp is still using government resources and facilities to ensure victory.

Poll Body Wants President Proclaimed by 30 Jun

HK2205112392 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Commission on Elections [Comelec] Commissioner Remedios Fernando said that it is the Senate's responsibility to proclaim a new president by 30 June to avoid placing the country in a constitutional crisis. This was announced by Fernando in line with the coming joint session to be held by Congress to start canvassing of election returns in the presidential race. He also stressed that Congress should take steps to expedite the canvassing of votes in order that the winners may be proclaimed as soon as possible. He added that if Congress fails to finish canvassing for the presidential race, the vice president elect will act as president as provided for by the Constitution.

Ramos Widens Lead in Latest Poll Count

HK2205085892 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats presidential candidate Fidel V. Ramos continues to lead by 861,384 over his closest rival Edgardo Danding Cojuangco. This figure is from the latest tabulation made by the Media Citizens Quick Count as of 1430 [0630 GMT] this afternoon. A total of 12,930,054 votes from 93,965 precincts have been counted. This represents 55.16 percent of the total votes to be canvassed.

Ramos	3,131,746
Cojuangco	2,269,812
Santiago	2,238,382
Mitra	2,041,686
Marcos	1,481,540
Salonga	1,286,824
Laurel	262,422

In the vice presidential race:

Estrada	3,458,535
Fernan	2,677,319
Osmena	1,980,724
R. Magsaysay	1,534,837
Pimentel	1,110,612
V. Magsaysay	425,128
Kalaw	93,869

The top senatorial candidates are:

Sotto	5,764,341
Angara	4,140,114
Revilla	4,040,458
Herrera	3,674,694
Sotto	5,764,341
Angara	4,140,114
Maceda	3,459,303
Romulo	3,342,203
Alvarez	3,314,289
Mercado	3,236,573
Shahani	3,180,714
Gonzales	3,140,866
Ople	3,028,176
Macapagal	2,972,181
Guingona	2,887,059
Webb	2,845,751
Rasul	2,652,091
Lina	2,514,851
Coseteng	2,488,941
Tolentino	2,430,869
Roco	2,389,758
Biazon	2,313,475
Osmena	2,286,938
Aquino	2,167,799
Tatad	2,148,103
Tanada	2,126,336
Padilla	2,042,638
Bengzon	2,041,853
Bello	1,896,485
Aguirre	1,849,720
Concepcion	1,806,779
Tamano	1,762,409

Ramos Outlines Plans for Administration

HK2205090292 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0030 GMT 22 May 92

[Interview with presidential candidate Fidel Ramos by host Joe Taruc on "Liberty in Action" program—live from DZRH studio; italicized passages in English]

[Text] [Taruc] Our guest for today is leading presidential candidate former [Defense] Secretary Fidel V. Ramos of the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats [Lakas EDSA-NUCD]. Mr. Secretary.

[Ramos] Good morning to you and to all our listeners.

[Taruc] The total number of tabulated votes is now over 50 percent and you are leading by 800,000 over your closest rival. *How does it feel, Mr. Secretary?*

[Ramos] *Of course, I am very happy and encouraged* because what we have been saying during the campaign period *and even before that* came true, that through the *barrios' nationwide surveys, there was a strong popular*

support for Eddie Ramos. And I am very happy because there has almost been a validation or confirmation of those surveys *based on the tallies and canvasses.* But maybe that is good as it makes us feel safe now. It shows us what the trend really is.

[Taruc] Based on the Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] tally, Mr. Secretary, we observed that you may win as what is termed *plurality president* or one who has the most votes in the presidential race. But your Lakas party did not win here in the National Capital Region [NCR], which is the seat of power. How would you resolve this problem?

[Ramos] *The NCR traditionally is anti-administration or opposition,* even when I was still an ordinary candidate, I had not been endorsed by President Aquino then, I was only number two here at the NCR. *But number two which may be as much as 20 to 25 percentage points behind Miriam Santiago.* But if we analyze the *nationwide survey, region by region, I am either number one or number two in all of the regions, northern regions, all in all including the NCR and the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.* I think *it is the even, consistently high showing in each of the regions which became my strong point.* What is really important is for one to have a *base of support in each of the regions in the Philippines.*

[Taruc] What is the major factor which has led you to pull through way ahead of the others, Mr. Secretary?

[Ramos] The electorate looks on various qualifications, not only popularity but also the *record of performance in public service, ability to rise to any crisis and make the proper decision and come out a winner in those crises.* One other thing is the *noninvolvement in cronyism, graft, and corruption* which I think is a major factor. *So the sum of all of this for each candidate determines the quality of the candidate on his acceptability before the electorate.* If you recall the *religious factor became hotly discussed during a large period of the campaign,* but I did not see this as being a *negative or positive factor.*

[Taruc] Mr. Secretary, since we are expecting that more or less you will assume office on 1 July 1992, during the first 100 days of your office, what problems will you attend to?

[Ramos] First of all, Joe, I may possibly be there by 30 June. [Taruc chuckles]. *My five top priority programs to be addressed immediately are these: Stability comes first. Let us enhance stability, improve security, peace and order,* so that our country may become more attractive to foreigners, foreign investors, credit, etc. And of course, stability is needed for the advancement of other government programs. Second is the economic recovery program...

[Taruc, interrupting] Okay, on the stability first, Mr. Secretary. What kind of approach would you use? Would you use an iron hand or a process of reconciliation?

[Ramos] You know I have been saying this for a long time, *even when I was the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] and secretary of defense,* which is to enhance unity, solidarity, and teamwork. *Reconciliation is not enough. This is only one aspect of unity.* Okay, we believe in common values, common principles, and we are friendly to each other. Second is solidarity. We should have an agreement on *national interest, national goals, national priority, national agenda, national direction.* If the new leaders agree on this, *regardless of their party affiliations because they are looking at themselves now as Filipinos, patriotic Filipinos, we will have solidarity.* But one more thing is needed, teamwork. *We must move, we must act as a team, otherwise,* even if we have unity if we don't move toward a unified direction, *we cannot move [words indistinct].*

[Taruc] We still have two problems, Mr. Secretary, the leftists and the rightists. What approach would you use on them?

[Ramos] The program of unity, reconciliation. But it should not only be reconciliation. They have to be given alternatives so that they become *law-abiding, productive citizens of the republic.* Again, this is their second chance. This program has been established by the present administration because we have a program of national reconciliation and development, *dating back to March 1987* and I was one of the authors of the program and became *the main implementor together with the Department of Interior and Local Governments in 1988, so I am familiar with the program. We will intensify that and offer, reach out, a helping hand to as many of these rebels as possible.*

[Taruc] All sectors?

[Ramos] *Yes, including the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], New People's Army, secessionists, Moro National Liberation Front, military rebels, and the extreme right or what they call the URG, or ultraright group. They are all under the program and many have come already.*

[Taruc] So your administration is willing to talk to whoever wants to talk to your government to give peace a chance.

[Ramos] Of course.

[Taruc] Does this include Honasan's group, the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, and all the other military rightists?

[Ramos] This program exists even to this time. *We will continue that and will make it more attractive.*

[Taruc] How about the so-called leftists, will you agree to holding peace talks all over again to resolve once and for all the problem on this?

[Ramos] We have ongoing talks which were suspended. *I don't know why because I left the government in July*

1991. But this should be resumed at the level of negotiators. In other words, during my time, it was the cabinet Cluster E that was talking and there were also *special missions sent abroad under the authority of the president, like one headed by Congressman Apeng Yap, which I think succeeded in establishing contacts with the decision makers on the part of the CPP. So, why shouldn't we resume those? I think we should.*

[Taruc] On the bases issue, what would be your administration's position on this?

[Ramos] There is a need to review immediately, *at the earliest during the next administration, the entire range of Philippine-U.S. relations, including security or defense which encompasses the bases.* But we should also talk on *relations regarding the economy, trade, culture, and the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951 because it is ongoing up to now. It was not abrogated just because the bases were closed. So, we have a lot to talk about. All for the mutual good of the two countries.*

[Taruc] You mean that there is a possibility of resuming talks on the phaseout of the military bases?

[Ramos] The option now, since they [the bases] have left *and they are scheduled to move out by the end of this year, at the latest, and the major components have left including the drydocks.* Perhaps we can talk on the access, *the access was a very important subject* during the time of the negotiations in the middle of 1991. *But that was not really resolved. I think access is the proper arrangement because in most countries now where the U.S. have forces,* these are not bases like Clark and Subic before, but *they have access to bases belonging to host countries.*

[Taruc] We noticed that you have talked to two of your rivals in the presidential race. You already had the opportunity to at least exchange some views with them. Does this mean that you have a policy to talk to all your rivals to ensure unity prevails?

[Ramos] Well, not all of them. But I hope that eventually I will be able to talk to all of them. I did not talk to just two but three, *Speaker Mitra, who was the first. I thank him again for that opportunity.* His opinion is for us *to get together for the good of the country which I think everybody should appreciate. Second is former Senate President Jovy Salonga who was very, very happy* and of course Vice President Laurel. I hope to talk to the others. Not only them but also to the leaders of the various contending parties. And today *I hope I can schedule one with, not a presidential candidate, but a very strong leader of an opposing party.*

[Taruc] Will the Edsa Strength-NUCD still operate during your term as president, or will this be dismantled and a new group formed to support your administration?

[Ramos] *The Edsa Strength-NUCD coalition was accredited with the Commission on Elections [Comelec]; it was recognized as only one coalition and appeared as such in the Comelec documents.* This is why, because of the fact that many joined us—although the majority of our local candidates have lost in their respective contests because the coalition was an unwieldy one—we shall carry on. *We have already met our executive committee and our plan really is to consolidate, strengthen the party at the grass roots, and make sure that our identity [words indistinct] as a Christian democratic party which is recognized not only in the country but all over the world. The advantage of the Christian democratic connection is that there are 60 national and international political parties and political institutions which are named Christian Democrats. And we adhere to the same principles, which is, I suppose, successful, all over the world.* This is why it is valuable for us to uphold those Christian democratic principles as a basis for governing because this provides empowerment to the people. This is a fine program for the ordinary Filipino.

[Taruc] Mr Secretary, can I go back to the earlier question about the first 100 days of your administration. You expounded on matters of stability. Now, what is second?

[Ramos] Second is the economic recovery program. This is broad but it encompasses our program from top to bottom. It is not just foreign investments and industrialization, modernization of agriculture which are included there, but also livelihood....

[Taruc, interrupting] The lowering of prices of prime commodities?

[Ramos] *Yes, of course. In other words, to make the ordinary family more empowered because they will have supplemental income—maybe many of them will have jobs. And their one peso can buy more goods because of the steadiness of the rate of inflation, which we will cut down as much as possible. And there will be a reasonable price for our prime commodities.*

[Taruc] Mr Secretary, you will need good people and economists who will be able to implement these aims and solve these problems. Does this mean there may be a change of some government officials?

[Ramos] Of course, not just a few—*there will be quite a number in the sense that we will have to get the most successful, in terms of track performance and track record.* Secondly, since our party is a broad-based one, including many sectors and other people's organizations, *we have a strong base of support that carried me, for here I am now as the front runner—we cannot just ignore them. They must be represented in the new government. There are only two qualities really that I'm looking for. One is complete dedication to the public service—since it is a sacrifice to be in the government, whether it is at the cabinet level or below. There is a lack of emoluments, a lack of attraction within the government service. Secondly, they must be thoroughly honest and credible in their dealings.* That has been where our worst problems

have sprung from—*the problem of graft and corruption, the problem of patronage, [words indistinct] results in our political culture.*

[Taruc] *Any other particular policy, when it comes to your relatives, Mr Secretary?*

[Ramos] [Laughs] *I don't expect to have any relatives in appointed positions. As usual, my sister is an aspiring reelectionist in the Senate; my other sister has been a foreign service officer for about 10 years now, and she is there, but she will not expect any special favors from me. As for friends and cronies and near relatives hoping to attain opportunities and benefits because of their connections to me, I will make sure that this does not happen. During my 40 years of previous government service, I think I can honestly say that none of them benefitted from their connection with me and it will continue to be so. My own direct family members have their own jobs and they are still working. Even my wife has had to work up to now—to help maintain our family style.* So you can trust in this.

[Taruc] In preparation for assuming the presidency in the government, the secretary talked first about stability, then economic recovery. What about the third one, Mr Secretary?

[Ramos] *Actually we started talking about this third matter, as this includes our fight against graft and corruption. That is what I call streamlining the bureaucracy so as to make the government more efficient; and since we are now into the program of decentralizing government, as per the local government code, it is very timely to streamline now. Fourthly is the protection of the environment. We must make sure that our natural resources, our beautiful God-given environment, must be protected. But at the same time, we can make it work efficiently. As for our economic recovery—let us not exploit it until everything is done or consumed, but we can use some and augment what we have used until, in the end, we have more than what we started with and, at the same time, we can obtain benefits out of all of that.*

[Taruc] What you mean is something like selective logging, as it's called?

[Ramos] Well, logging*is just one of them. But the protection of the underwater or the marine environment, protection of our water resources, protection of our wildlife—all this is part of that program.*

[Taruc] Okay, the fifth item?

[Ramos] *The fifth concerns electric power development. We must accelerate that, because we have had short-term, mid-term and long-range problems.*

[Taruc] In other words, you will address our power crisis problem?

[Ramos] *We must address our brown-out problems right away, but we must make sure that the programs that are already on stream,* which have been started, and the studies being made that we must continue,*but let us review them so that maybe we can shorten the corporationalization [word as heard] of these programs.*

[Taruc] *During the campaign, Secretary Ramos,* the most serious issue was the lowering of prices of petrol products and the reduction of electric power rates. Do you have any immediate action plan on this for when you assume office?

[Ramos] Well, the price of crude oil has been reduced. But the effect of reducing oil product prices by one peso only accrues to about five centavos per kilowatt hour, in terms of the power rates. So we need to study how that 5 percent can be increased and how to implement the power rates more equitably because I think we should reward the more efficient power generators and power distributors, like the electric cooperatives. *If we are efficient in that area, by way of being able to provide the service and at the same time collect from the consumers,* then perhaps the communities can be rewarded. *These are the things I am trying to look at.*

[Taruc] *Secretary, during the last days of the Aquino administration, there has been an acceleration of infrastructure projects, particularly in Metropolitan Manila.* There are those who say that you are the first civil engineer to become president. Will these projects continue and be speeded up, or what plans do you have?

[Ramos] If possible, these should be speeded up in all parts of the country, not just in Metro Manila. *In fact, right now I am still interested in a very important project in northern Samar which I started as secretary of defense, when the implementing agency was the AFP Corps of Engineers. This is a place where there have never been any roads at all—it is about 100 km. It is now about to be finished. Now we have to do projects like that in the future,* if I should win and become president.

[Taruc] Mr Secretary, many are asking if General Abadia will be allowed to finish his term, or will you replace him as AFP chief of staff?

[Ramos] As of now, I don't see anything bad or weak about General Lisandro Abadia's performance. *Since the chief of staff has a tenure of three years, which can be terminated by cause or lack of confidence on the part of the commander-in-chief, let us see how he continues to perform. At this time in a crisis situation, the AFP, as deputies of the Comelec, must perform according to the expectations of our people. In other words, to be loyal and efficient in their performance, which is what our people expect now as well as in the future. It must continue to be like that—steady, high quality, dedicated to public service, competent, capable.* That is all I will look for. *Right now I don't think there is any reason to question his good performance.*

[Taruc] Mr Secretary, many people are asking and speculating as to where your family will live once you are president—in Malacanang, the guesthouse, or some other place?

[Ramos] [Laughs] *The present residence of President Cory Aquino, which is a former guesthouse next to Malacanang, I think is quite adequate.* I will not spend public money just for my comfort.*What is there, I will use. And so it will be there where I intend to reside. My children, except for one, have their own families and are living in their own places.*

[Taruc] I think the point people make is that other presidents have had their families right in Malacanang Palace, with only President Aquino living in the guesthouse.

[Ramos] *Well, there is a reason for that, I think. Since Malacanang proper has been converted into a museum and ceremonial area largely, I intend to keep it that way, because if you make some massive changes, this will entail public expenses. My role is to keep expenses down, in relation to the transfer to the new area. But you are talking as if I am already the president of the Philippines.* There may be those who will get upset about this. [Laughs]

[Taruc] You know, many have noted your words a few days before the election about the coconut levy being returned to the coconut farmers. Gerry Fernandez of Cubao asks whether, once you are president, you will have a particular program for the coconut industry. And who have you in mind to head the Philippine Coconut Authority, which is very important for the coconut farmers.

[Ramos] We already have a program for the farmers,including the coconut farmers. But we are basing that on people empowerment, farmers empowerment—*give them more facilities, special credits, marketing assistance,* and all the services they need so that they can prosper and improve their livelihood. *That, I can guarantee, will be a primary program, not just for the coconut farmers but for all farmers.*

[Taruc] Danny Santiago of Manila asks: Mr President-elect, what will be your policy towards the media? Many reporters are afraid you may harrass journalists and commentators who may criticize you once you are in Malacanang.

[Ramos] Well, I think that is only one man's opinion—on being thin-skinned about criticism—I think it has been well established. [words indistinct] on the secretary of defense. During the campaign period,*I am always accessible to media. In fact during my time as secretary, we signed the very first agreement with the National Press Club [NPC], during the time of Celo Lagmayan, I am glad he has been reelected for another term in the NPC, establishing the rules of engagement between law enforcers and military men [words indistinct] there is no overbearing or overpowering behavior on the part of those in uniform, as there is rapport, friendship, and cooperation between the two sectors. I hope to maintain my relations with the members of media.* Perhaps I have shown during this time that*I am completely cooperative and now that I still have the time for it, I have this opportunity to go around and be guest at programs like yours which are very prestigious.*

[Taruc] When you were the secretary of the Department of National Defense, I remember that you made sure that there was a weekly meeting with the media. Will you do the same when you become president?

[Ramos] What we are doing now that we have the time and*there is a need to do this, we are having daily press conferences at which I appear maybe thrice a week. But at the same time, I am also available after those press conferences for interviews and this has been going on for the last 10 days. I hope to be able to meet the media as frequently as possible in the next administration if we are in that next administration.*

[Taruc] There is a question here from Romy Ibanez of Manila: President Corazon Aquino always said you would do those things that she failed to do, being those which are good and for the interest of the people and not only to the relatives incorporated. May we know what your policy is toward this so-called relatives incorporated and the people who committed irregularities in the previous administration?

[Ramos] Actually, I don't know who these relatives are. *This has been attributed to President Cory Aquino. But I can only speak for myself that I cannot... [Ramos changes thought] That under that category, whatever it is as I explained, that in all of my government service* I maintained no link with those*friends or cronies to my office. I kept them away and I dealt professionally with everybody.*

[Taruc] No special favors?

[Ramos] None. *I can be very truthful about that and that can be checked up by people.*

[Taruc] Emmanuel Prasante of Pasig says:*Be strong. We are always praying for you.*

[Ramos] Thank you.

[Taruc] Raul Billeza of Malabon wants to know your postal address. Where can he write you when you have become president?

[Ramos] *I will maintain my office here at 8 Hyde Tree, Pasay Road, Makati for purposes of correspondence.* If you want to address it to Malacanang, no problem.

[Taruc] From Tanny Alvar: What is your stand on a gunless society? Are you in favor of the gun ban extension?

[Ramos] With regard to the extension of the gun ban,*I am in favor of that.* With regard to a gunless society, we still have to study this matter because when I was still in the assembly, we already had a proposal for tighter firearms control*and I think this will attain the objectives of a so-called gunless society. But it does not mean that there is a total ban on the possession of guns, because there are still many lawless elements roaming around,*

that use guns, and the qualified and law-abiding citizens, I think, should be given the means to protect themselves.

[Taruc] Mr. Secretary, one of the questions here is with regard to your policy on hidden wealth. What is your policy with regard to this matter? With regard to the Presidential Commission on Good Government [PCGG]? Will you continue to prosecute these hidden wealth cases? Will your administration continue to pursue these cases?

[Ramos] With regard to prosecution and pursuit*of all of those cases to recover hidden wealth which are now in the courts, they should be followed, they should continue.* Now, regarding the PCGG, should it be the agency to pursue this? Well, this still has to be studied very thoroughly*because right now it appears to be the one and only agency doing everything: Developing the cases, sequestering the agencies or corporations, and making decisions as to who are the fiscal agents to represent the government. However, it looks as if these could be the source of the lack of efficiency on the part of that body in the past as perceived by many people.* So we still have to look into it.

[Taruc] Mr. Secretary, with your permission, there is a question here from our colleagues in Bacolod. Let us call on DYEZ Bacolod, Mr. Boy Duran. Good morning.

[Duran] *Yes, good morning, Joe. Good morning, Mr. Secretary.*

[Ramos] Good morning to all of you in Bacolod and Negros Occidental.

[Duran] Mr. Secretary, our question here is about the apprehension of most of the people here regarding the sugar industry. According to the people here, you still have not totally grasped the problems of the sugar industry. What are your plans with regard to this, Mr. Secretary?

[Ramos] *The productivity of the sugar industry, as well as of course its sufficiency, should be maintained and enhanced because it is one of our major dollar earners and the source of livelihood of so many people.* So you can depend on me, if I will be lucky enough to become the next president,*I will support those that are in the industry, be they workers or planters or traders, because we should maximize our pre-eminent position worldwide in sugar.*

[Taruc] *Go ahead, Roy.*

[Duran] Another question here, Mr. Secretary, is: If you are elected the next president, do you have any plans for our current governor, Governor Lacson, considering that he is one of the closest people to the present administration and that he did not run for reelection? Do you have any plans for him?

[Ramos] Do not worry, we have bright plans for Bitay Lacson.*He would be of continued use and benefit to our government and to our people. If he will allow us to get him into an important role.*

[Taruc] *Okay, thank you very much Mr. Boy Duran of DYEZ Bacolod. Now let us get back to Metropolitan Manila.* We have a question here from Edith Santos and Anna Lisa Bonifacio: Mr. President-elect, what would your policy be on the 357 dismissed teachers? How would you give these teachers, who have been dismissed since 1990, justice?

[Ramos] *I believe that we shall review their cases all over again.*

[Taruc] From Bert Silva of Batangas: What is your impression on the results of the elections in Cavite? Is possible for you and Governor Remulla to reconcile your differences for the sake of the people?

[Ramos] Personally,*I have already issued the call for unity, solidarity, and teamwork. And in Cavite, I am seeing that the electorate there...* [Ramos, changes thought] I think that a lot of them believe in our program*to establish a new kind of politics,* one that is not based on*power-brokering or politics of patronage.* From what I have heard,*our party won at least five mayoralty contests. So this is a breakthrough.*

[Taruc] Mr. Secretary, with your permission, we have a question here from our colleagues in your province Dagupan, Pangasinan.

[Ramos] That's okay, Joe.

[Taruc] *Okay, Mon Pagatpatan, please come in.*

[Pagatpatan] Good morning, Mr. President [as heard].

[Ramos] Good morning to you all.

[Pagatpatan] Sir, I am sorry but I am Ilocano, I cannot speak Pangasinense.

[Ramos] Good morning to you all. [Repeats himself in Ilocano]

[Pagatpatan] A number of people here in Dagupan and throughout the province of Pangasinan have been wondering what your reaction is to the allegations made by Mrs. Santiago that your lead in the polls is based on fraud and to her call for a public protest against these allegations of fraud?

[Ramos] First, we should wait for the result of the polls to be announced by the Comelec and the actions which it is going to take. *All complaints and protests should go before the Comelec and let the Comelec be the one to deal with these complaints.*

Personally, I would like to thank all of my provincemates in Pangasinan for giving me the majority of my votes. *I am told that as much as 79 to 80 percent of the voters there voted for me and the balance was shared among the six other candidates. I think we are seeing the tallies which have so far been accomplished. And I have heard that only two more towns remain to be tallied. Mrs. Santiago's protests are so generalized that they should not be given any credence at all. But, surely, since she claims to have*

proof of wrongdoing. I suggest that she should submit this before the Comelec. *We also have our own complaints, protest, and request for redress of a grievance with the Comelec coming from our local candidates, as well as coming from our senatorial, and also coming from our vice presidential candidate.* I am not complaining because*I am waiting for these subordinate complaints coming from below to be the ones also to reflect my complaints,* because if their votes are affected, so are mine.

The important thing at this moment is*that we should stay calm, sober, maintain the integrity of the electoral process, and get the various steps finished according to the schedule put out by the Comelec and Congress of the Philippines.* These should be finished as soon as possible,*for the benefit of the people.*

[Taruc] Okay, thank you very much Mon Pagatpatan of DWCN Dagupan.

We have a question here from Alice Buenaventura of Makati: Will you have a different policy with regard to our foreign debt or will you just continue with the present policies of the Aquino administration?

[Ramos] First of all, *it is best to pay for the debts as they become due. It is not bad per se to have debts.* All of the countries in the world, big or small, including the United States and Japan, have huge foreign debts. *The important thing is the ability to pay.* And I think that we can pay our foreign debt by [word indistinct] do four things, *and we are already doing this.*

First of all, we should maximize the overseas remittances of our overseas contract workers*because quite a bit of this is not passing through our formal banking system. Secondly, I think we can further increase our export earnings and even in the field of tourism,* our tourist earnings are now too low. *I think now that we are about finished with this electoral exercise, we can concentrate on maximizing tourism. [Words indistinct] set up foreign investors throughout the Philippines.* Our motherland will become more attractive*when the new administration sets in, I'm sure.*

[Taruc] Mr. Secretary, did those countries governed by the Christian Democrats make any commitment for assistance during the time of your incumbency?

[Ramos] As of the moment, there are*now programs to give what they call official development assistance to the Philippines. At the same time,* there is*private assistance coming from their private sectors to our nongovernment organizations and people's organizations.* There are a lot of these programs. *The Christian democratic countries have proven their friendship and concern for the Philippines in the past, especially during the Aquino administration.* They themselves are people-power countries.*Empowerment of the people so that wealth is equally distributed, so that opportunities are given to those that are capable, regardless of social class.* That is the standard that we would want to uphold here in our country.

[Taruc] From Myrna Acevedo of Pangasinan: I hope that when you become president, the government can have the road to Pangasinan fixed. I hope this is part of your plan?

[Ramos] The road to Pangasinan... [Ramos, changes thought] Can you tell me what road to Pangasinan? There are a lot of roads going to Pangasinan.

[Taruc] There might be a particular road leading to Pangasinan that your provincemates are having problems with.

[Ramos] Well, I will have to look into it,*but Pangasinan is now approachable from Zambales, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, La Union, from all sides actually.*

[Taruc] Mr. Secretary, Leonida Bulaong of Taguig asks: Do you have a policy allowing the ordinary people to easily have contact with you at the Malcanang Palace?

[Ramos] Of course, we will implement a system wherein we may establish contact and access for our ordinary people. [five-second break in reception] *...smokey mountain in follow up to one of our commitments just before the election. And because they had a problem about the burning of several houses there last week, we were asked to help and in accordance with my commitment to them,* we went there to help a little.

[Taruc] Mr. Secretary, this is from Malou Belduan of Tondo, Manila: Your sister Leticia Ramos-Shahani may definitely be reelected to the Senate and may be convinced by her colleagues to become Senate president. What is your position on this if your advice is to be sought?

[Ramos] As far as I know, Letty herself is not aiming to become Senate president. *First of all, there are only 12 of them there from our ticket so far within the magic 24. But we are hoping for more to be included because they are within range. But even at that they may still be the minority. But policy wise and public relations wise,* it will not appear good if the Ramos family occupies the top positions in the government.

[Taruc] Who are you going to support for the speakership of the House of Representatives? Congressman De Venecia or Peping Cojuangco?

[Ramos] Let us just wait and see.

[Taruc] Let us give the newly elected president to leave some words for our listeners. [sentence as heard]

[Ramos] Thank you, Joe. But we are not certain yet. *Let us just hope for the best. Let us wait for the proclamation of the Congress* and even if we are looking at a very good trend, my answer to the people's call is they can rely on strong, firm, and honest leadership, if we get lucky and I become the country's president.*Let us all unite, consolidate, and let us all work as a team, so that the Filipino people can move forward faster to a better life for everybody.*

Unidentified Armed Men Kill 4 in Lanao del Sur

HK2205044192 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 22 May 92 p 1

[By Archie Monterola]

[Text] Iligan City—Reelectionist Mayor Hadji Morad Kismil Santiano Ogka, 46, of Balabagan, Lanao del Sur, two other candidates and a barangay captain were killed while three others were wounded when they were ambushed by unidentified armed men near the residence of Gov. Saidamen Pangarungan in Marawi City Wednesday morning.

Killed were Mayor Santiano, his running mate Kadal Lucos, 63; and board member candidates Ona Kibat, 68, and Mamarinta Ali, 43, barangay captain of Baroraw, Balabagan, Lanao del Sur.

Wounded were driver Rolando Paulino; Ipad Santiano, 45, uncle of the mayor; and Palao Kadal, 38, a CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] member and security escort of the mayor.

In a bedside interview at the Dr. Uy Hospital here, Paulino, 28, who was driving the Toyota Hi-lux they were riding in, said they had just come from Pangarungan's house some 100 meters away when gunmen fired at them at about 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Paulino said that Mayor Ogka was about to be proclaimed the winning candidate for mayor.

His closest rival, according to Comelec tally was Otto Benito of KBL [New Society Movement] who is also the son-in-law of former governor Ali Dimaporo.

Paulino said that Mayor Ogka was about 2,000 votes ahead of Benito when the cavanssing of votes was completed by the board of canvassers in the MSU [Mindanao State University] gymnasium in Marawi City.

The wounded mayor was brought by Governor Pangarungan to Iligan City for emergency treatment but he died on the way.

Supt. Enrique Cuadra, PNP [Philippine National Police] provincial director of Lanao del Sur, deployed four teams of special police forces to hunt the killers who were believed to be still in Marawi City.

Police, Military May Act as Local Poll Watchers

HK2205031892 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 22 May 92 p 3

[By Joey Caburnida and Elizabeth Perez]

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] will tap police and military officers to sit as members of local board of election canvassers to push through with the scheduled special elections on May 30 in politically tense towns in Lanao del Sur.

Comelec Commissioner Haydee Yorac said Wednesday the poll body would likely appoint police and military officers in the local board of election inspectors in Lanao del Sur due to lack of qualified civilian nominees.

"If there are no civilians who can sit ... then we will allow the military or police to sit as members of the board of election inspectors," Yorac told reporters after emerging from a joint PNP [Philippine National Police]-AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]-Comelec post-election assessment on the peace and order situation at Camp Crame Wednesday.

"We will decide this as an alternative formula. The first choice, of course, are civilians, and PNP and military (personnel) would only be appointed and provided they come in civilian outfits, and provided they have quick training on the duties of the board," she added.

Yorac explained that a typical town in the Muslim-dominated province has an estimated voting population of 5,000.

This makes the selection of members of the election board of canvassers more difficult for the poll body since almost all of the voters are related by blood to the candidates, she said.

"Everybody is running there, and so the problem really is that they are all related to each other," Yorac said.

The Comelec had suspended the local elections in the towns of Masiu, Butig, Bacoiod Grande and Madamba in Lanao del Sur after it declared a failure of elections twice in these perennial trouble spots on May 11 and 16.

Thousands of police and military troops have been involved in the security preparations as deputies of the Comelec, providing security escorts in the "forward movement" of both election officials and accountable forms, such as ballot forms and boxes, and their retrieval to the Comelec main offices.

"We will give the regional election director the option to determine whether there are enough civilians who can be recruited from other municipalities to sit as members of the board," she said.

Thailand

Foreign Minister Pleased With U.S. Statement

BK2105115292 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1035 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan said during an interview today that his ministry is in the process of preparing reports on the injuries and fatalities resulting from the recent clashes between the military and rioters for 72 Thai embassies and consulates worldwide. He revealed that a U.S. spokesman this morning issued a statement expressing congratulations for the improvement of the situation in Thailand. The foreign minister said:

[Begin Pongphon recording] We are trying to provide further clarification. It is pleasing to note that the U.S. State Department spokesman this morning issued a statement saying that the United States welcomes the improvement of the situation in Thailand following the intervention by His Majesty the King. This is what the the U.S. State Department said. [end recording]

Holds Briefing for Ambassadors

BK2205095692 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 3 in Thai 0840 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan, in his bid to improve the country's image in the eyes of the people of the world, this morning invited 61 foreign ambassadors for a briefing on the country's situation.

The foreign minister thanked the foreign countries that have expressed concern over the situation and explained to them the parliament's efforts to resolve the problem. The foreign ambassadors are concerned about when a constitutional amendment requiring the prime minister to be elected will take effect. Pongphon explained to them that the Chat Thai Party had agreed to amend the Constitution on this point without a transitional clause.

During his talks with the foreign ambassadors, the foreign minister, in his capacity as a member of the Parliament, said that he disagreed with any acts of violence. However, in his capacity as the foreign minister he has the duty to explain the situation and to help the country return to normalcy.

The foreign minister held a news conference later. He cried when the correspondents asked him who will be held responsible for the problem.

[Begin Pongphong recording] During my meeting with the foreign ambassadors a moment ago, they expressed regret and sympathy over what had happened in our country. Several of them also expressed their concern and gave some suggestions, mostly regarding the constitutional amendment. Almost all of the suggestions support the constitutional amendments, especially concerning the point requiring that the prime minister be elected, which would take effect immediately after the amendments are approved by the Parliament. [end recording]

The foreign minister also said that the Chat Thai Party will certainly not obstruct the constitutional amendments because his party has agreed to support the motion which requires that the prime minister be elected, without a transitional clause. The Chat Thai Party secretary general has also reaffirmed this with him.

[Begin Pongphong recording in progress] ...just like the opposition. In short, we agreed that the prime minister must come from the election and be a member of the House of Representatives and that there should be no transitional clause. The information I have received confirms that the prime minister must be held responsible for what has happened. The information also indicates that the country's situation and image can only be improved after a change of prime minister. [end recording]

Says Suchinda Must Take Blame

BK2205083492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 22 May 92

[From the program "International Report"]

[Text] There has been a dramatic development in Thailand where the foreign minister has just made a statement calling on the prime minister, General Suchinda, to take the blame for the street rioting over the past few days. The statement demonstrates major splits within the coalition government and spells trouble for Gen. Suchinda. Our Bangkok correspondent, Nicholas Stewart is now on the line, speaking with him is Barry Clark:

[Begin recording] [Clark] Nick, exactly what did the foreign minister say?

[Stewart] He was weeping when he spoke to reporters. He said first that he had earlier briefed the 61 foreign ambassadors and he said that he told them that he strongly denounced the use of force during the pro-democracy demonstrations. He said his party, which is Chat Thai, the second largest party in the Parliament, was now fully supporting the constitutional amendments that had been put forward by the demonstrators that requires that the prime minister be an elected member of the parliament, not a general. He then said the prime minister is the one who is held responsible for the cause of the deaths—and that was when he was crying. He said from the information he has collected both here and from foreign countries he has found the image of Thailand can only improve after a change of prime minister.

So, in other words, it is really a pulling the rug out from under Gen. Suchinda.

[Clark] What do you think this means for Gen. Suchinda?

[Stewart] Still, there had been attempt from Gen. Suchinda to try and hold on. (?Then) it did look as though the constitutional debate, the changes in parliament, had been postponed for at least a week. This is going to mean that opposition MP's have the numbers in parliament. They can now force the changes through then there as they required. It means that Suchinda can continue trying to hold on if he wants to, but he has got no legitimacy now. He lacks even the numbers to control parliament. So, as well as that, it basically means there is going to be a change (?of) prime minister by the end of next week and it is going to avert any further conflict. [end recording]

Officials Condemn Violence

BK2205101492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 in Thai 0950 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Some 200 Foreign Ministry officials called on Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan after he briefed foreign diplomats on the situation. The officials issued a statement expressing deep sorrow over the acts of violence against innocent people and condemning such unnecessary actions. The officials, clad in black and white mourning attire, also demanded the appointment of a fact-finding team and insisted that the authorities concerned show their sense of responsibility toward the loss of life and property of the people.

Joint Parliament Session To Be Held 25 May

To Debate Ammendments

BK2205010092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 May 92 p A4

[Text] The government has asked that Parliament convene on Monday to consider constitutional amendments aimed at settling the national crisis, acting government spokeman Witsanu Khrua-Ngam said yesterday.

The government is expected to present its own amendment proposals to Parliament. The amendments would be submitted to Parliament President Dr Ukrit Mongkonnawin today.

Parliament is tentatively set to debate the political crisis on Monday. The five coalition parties apparently want the first reading of the amendment proposals to take place after the debate.

The government had agreed that the parliamentary meeting should be broadcast live on television and radio, Witsanu said.

Cabinet members agreed with Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun's proposal that Parliament urgently consider the constitutional amendments, he said.

Before the outbreak of violence, the Opposition already had submitted a draft amendment to House Speaker Athit Urairat, seeking to change the charter on four points. They would require the prime minister to be an elected MP, limit the power of the Senate, make the House speaker concurrently president of Parliament, and allow free debate during the second annual House session which is now confined to considering legislation.

Witsanu said Suchinda would explain to the Parliament on Monday the government's reasons behind its handling of the pro-democracy demonstrations earlier this week when scores of people were killed and hundreds wounded.

At Monday's meeting, the government would also discuss a rehabilitation plan for relatives of those killed in the past few days, he said.

Witsanu said the session would be broadcast live on TV Channel 11 and radio stations under the control of the Public Relations Department.

He said the session when the constitutional amendments are considered will be broadcast, even if it is postponed to a future date.

In addition, Witsanu also said the Cabinet plans to propose to the House of Representatives a draft amnesty for protesters facing charges of instigating the week's unrest. He said the amnesty would not apply to protesters who had destroyed state property.

About 3,000 demonstrators were released yesterday.

Coalition Submits Amendment Draft

BK2205091092 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0850 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Several prominent leaders of the government coalition parties have submitted a proposal to seek amendments to the Constitution that require the prime minister to be elected and that do not permit transitional clauses for the amendments.

Leaders of three big government coalition parties—Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan, Chat Thai Party leader Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong, and Social Action Party leader Montri Phongphanit—submitted a constitutional amendment draft to the secretary general of the National Assembly at about 1430 [0730 GMT] today. The government coalition parties' constitutional amendment draft will be put on the agenda to be discussed, together with the opposition's draft, during a parliamentary joint session on 25 May, to meet the desire of the people.

'Transitional Period' Possible

BK2205013192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 May 92 p 6

[Text] The five Government parties will today submit their constitutional amendments motion to require an elected prime minister—but with a transitional clause allowing Gen Suchinda Khraprayun to remain in the post for a period.

The five parties—Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Prachakon Thai, Social Action and Ratsadon—do not want the amendment to apply immediately, a well-informed source said yesterday.

"It is inevitable to have a transitional period before the amendment (to have an elected prime minister) takes effect as this is a political compromise," said the source, a Cabinet member responsible for drafting the motion.

Some Government MPs yesterday discussed constitutional amendments. They agreed on the need for the provisional clause in the political circumstances.

The source said the Government has to submit to pressure to have the Constitution made more democratic as demanded by tens of thousands of people.

Asked about the transitional period, the source said this depends on the scrutiny committee's decision after the amendment passes its first reading.

"Four years may be too long and we can compromise on the issue. Two years may be right," the minister said.

If there is no transitional clause, Premier Suchinda would have to step down immediately after the amendments become law.

The five Government parties will also seek to make the House Speaker President of Parliament.

However, Ratsadon Party secretary-general Chaipak Siriwat said the five parties had not reached a conclusion on the transitional clause for Gen Suchinda to stay on and the requirement to have the House Speaker as President of Parliament.

The two points will be discussed today, he said.

Mr Chaipak believes Gen Suchinda will explain in Parliament about the bloodshed from May 18 to 20.

The session will be telecast live on Channels 9 and 11.

The Prime Minister's Office Minister said the Premier did not order the shooting of the demonstrators and that the Cabinet had nothing to do with the announcement of the state of emergency.

He said he is most concerned about tourism as the country's image has been damaged considerably.

Mr Chaipak said no foreign reporters were killed in the bloodshed.

Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Sundarawet said the constitutional amendments draft will be submitted today at 2 p.m.

He said all five parties support Gen Suchinda for prime minister.

Minister Watana Atsawahem of the PM's Office said politicians will have to comply with the wishes of the people and he is confident the Constitution will be amended accordingly.

The Chat Thai MP, however, refused to comment on how the charter should be changed, saying that the issue does not involve only one individual.

Deputy Transport and Communications Minister Sano Thianthong said the amendment will need the cooperation of all involved but he refused to say how the charter should be changed.

Officials Distancing Themselves

BK2205062892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0617 GMT 22 May 92

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Text] Bangkok, May 22 (AFP)—Fears of more violent street protests in Bangkok were defused Friday when the pro-military coalition government agreed to oust unelected Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun as soon as possible.

"It looks like the rats are deserting the sinking ship. The anti-government message has finally got through and the party leaders now see that Suchinda is finished," said one analyst.

According to sources, the leaders of the five parties met with Suchinda in the morning and agreed to help push through the constitutional changes that would lead to the the premier's resignation.

Foreign Minister Pongphon Andireksan, a senior official of leading coalition member Chat Thai, told ambassadors early Friday that his party would support the changes, which would become effective as soon as they were passed.

Earlier a spokesman for the Social Action Party, another of the coalition parties, had warned that unless the changes were made as soon as possible it would withdraw from the government.

Suchinda has been the target of the tens of thousands of demonstrators who have taken to the streets calling for his immediate resignation and the appointment of an elected MP to the post of premier.

The crowds hold him responsible for the slaughter of more than 100 protesters gunned down earlier in the week by the military in an attempt to halt the political unrest.

"Suchinda has become one of the most despised prime ministers in Thai history and nothing but his resignation will defuse the current unrest. The politicians want to survive so they have begun to distance themselves," said one diplomat.

Following the dramatic intervention of King Phumiphon Adunyadet on Wednesday night, when he commanded Suchinda and protest leader and opposition MP Chamlong Simuang to reach a compromise, the prime minister's future has seemed sealed.

Suchinda, in a television broadcast, said he would not oppose changes to the Constitution which would lead to his ousting and most people expected he would be replaced within two months at the most.

Cabinet members, speaking off the record Thursday, had said there must be a transitional clause to allow the former Armed Forces chief to remain in power for two years.

"If the government really continued to push that idea the consequences could be appalling. The violence we have seen this week would be nothing," said one diplomat.

But after a series of closed-door meetings late Thursday night and Friday morning the coalition members decided to back down and go with the flow.

On Friday academics at the city's Chulalongkon University put forward seven demands to end the crisis.

Their seven-point declaration included Suchinda accepting responsibility for the bloodshed and resigning, and the political parties agreeing to change the Constitution to meet the people's demands.

The contempt and anger felt by thousands of people in the capital against Suchinda and the government is on display everywhere. Many employees and businessmen turned up at work on Friday wearing something black—the colour of the anti-government movement.

Even some officials at the Foreign Ministry were sporting black.

Hundreds of people continued to mill around the Royal Hotel which was the scene of the worst carnage. The hotel's lobby was turned into a makeshift hospital Monday night, with more than 100 wounded and dead lying on the marble floor, after troops opened fire.

The bloodstained shirts of protesters shot down have been pinned to a tree and an area near the hotel has become a mini shrine with scores of burning candles. Anti-Suchinda grafitti is everywhere.

There are continued rumours of a split within the military, with many of the generals trying to distance themselves from the shooting, and some analysts said that they may remove Suchinda and his close advisors if they attempted to stay in power.

There are also growing reports that the actual death toll could be nearer 1,000 as families try to find missing relatives.

"We are getting such horrendous reports. The slaughter could be much worse that anyone thought," said one military attache. "Up to 1,000 dead is now not beyond the realms of possibility," he added.

Opposition Pushes Amendments

BK2205070992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] At the National Assembly building this morning, Mr. Wiwatthanachai Na Kalasin, Social Action Party [SAP] deputy leader, briefed reporters about the results of a party meeting held at the party leader's residence last night. He said that 25 SAP members of Parlimanet had signed a letter asking the party leader to push for amending the Constitution to meet the wishes of the people. The most important point is that the prime minister must be an elected person and that there should be no provisional clause. If the amendments do not meet this proposal, they will ask the party to reconsider its participation in the government. Or, if the coalition government's constitutional amendment draft does not include this point, all the 31 SAP members of parliament will join the opposition in voting for this point, which is included in the opposition's constitutional amendment draft.

3,300 Pro-Democracy Demonstrators Set Free

BK2205014792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 May 92 p 1

[Text] About 3,300 pro-democracy demonstrators were released yesterday after they had been arrested and detained on Monday and Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the public may call 247-7084 to 9 to enquire about those killed, wounded or missing, Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner Pol Maj-Gen Charuk Mekwichai said.

He said those released included 2,300 people detained at the stadium of the Police Private School and 1,000 at Lat Yao prison.

About 500 children and women detainees had been released earlier, Pol Maj-Gen Charuk said.

Those who had been earlier released on bail will get their cash and securities returned at the Metropolitan Police Headquarters from today.

Besides students and the general public, the detainees included teachers, government officials, lawyers, policemen and soldiers, according to the deputy commissioner.

A university deputy dean was among the detainees, he said, but he did not identify the academic.

Pol Maj-Gen Charuk said protest leader Chamlong Simuang had been released after being arrested by troops at Phan Fa Bridge on Monday.

Also released were New Aspiration Party deputy leader Wira Musikaphong and Chitrawadi Worachat, daughter of hunger striker Chalart Worachat.

Four other pro-democracy leaders for whom arrest warrants had been issued will not be arrested or questioned if they are subject to amnesty, the deputy commissioner said.

However, those detainees suspected of torching or damaging state or private property or robbing people will not be released but remain detained pending investigations for these offences, he said.

Government To Compensate Loss of Life, Property

BK2205015792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 May 92 p 2

[Text] The government will pay compensation for the loss of life and property during the bloodbath in Bangkok this week, Justice Minister Sawat Kamprakop said yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchupan was yesterday appointed by the Cabinet to draw up regulations for the payments.

Mr Sawat said the Interior Ministry accepted for consideration his suggestion made at the Cabinet meeting yesterday that it make public a list of protesters killed during the unrest.

He also proposed that the Interior Ministry take complaints from relatives of people who are still unaccounted for.

The minister implied that the payment of compensation for death, injury and loss of property should be based on law.

Mr Sawat said the Public Relations Department should be moved because the present location is often targeted for arson whenever there was public unrest.

Asked how the government intends to change its image of being murderous, Mr Sawat said the government could not be accused of murder.

"You have to take into account necessity. The government did not want to kill people. The government has agreed to take responsibility," he said.

He said the government would not resign "because resigning implies irresponsibility."

During the Cabinet meeting, he said, there was no finger-pointing among the ministers.

"Everyone was sad," he said, adding that Public Health Minister Bunphan Khaewatthana wept when he described his visit to hospitals during the protests.

"Those who shot the people might have appropriate reasons, or were acting in self-defence. Normally, we don't want anybody to die," he said.

Crowds Visit Protest Sites; Commemorate Dead

BK2105161892 Bangkok Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1520 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] While the protest event in Bangkok reportedly will be coming to an end pretty soon, our reporters visiting the rally site said that at dusk today some 1,000 people were seen milling around at Democracy Monument and adjacent areas to look at traces of the fighting and the damage caused to premises in the vicinity. Some of them laid wreaths there to commemorate those who lost their lives in the incident. The most prominent attractions around the rally site were bullet marks and traces of bloodstains, including ruins and damaged barbed wire barricades put there during the melee. In the meantime, two helicopters were seen circling above the avenue.

As for the Royal Hotel, an estimated 2,000 onlookers showed up in front of the hotel. Groups of people were seen intensively listening to stories related by a number of riot suspects who were just released from the Bangkhen Police Private Training School concerning the incidents before, during, and after their arrests. Some people expressed curiosity by asking the hotel management to go inside the hotel and hotel rooms to see the aftermath of the protest. However, their requests were politely denied by hotel personnel.

Security Force Thanks People for Cooperation

BK2205103492 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1000 GMT 22 May 92

["Announcement" of the Capital Security Force—read by announcer]

[Text] Referring to the declaration of a state of emergency by the government in Bangkok and outlying areas on 18 May 1992 and the subsequent imposition of a night curfew from 2100 to 0400 on the following day by the Interior Ministry on 20 May 1992, it appears that the fraternal people in Bangkok have been kindly cooperating with the authorities in implementing the two peacekeeping measures, thus enabling the Capital Security Force to effectively perform its duty in serving the country and fraternal people and to stabilize the situation to a certain degree. As a result, the Interior Ministry lifted the night curfew within a short period. The Capital Security Force hereby expresses its gratitude for the cooperation it has received from the fraternal people and wishes to reaffirm that it is determined to effectively protect the life and property of the fraternal people to create an atmosphere conducive for the government to quickly and continuously relax various measures imposed during the state of emergency for the normal livelihoood of the fraternal people.

[Announced] 22 May 1992

[Signed] General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, commander of the Capital Security Force

Chamlong Simuang Pleads for Public Understanding

BK2205011592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 May 92 pp 1, 2

[Text] Former Phalang Tham Party leader Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang yesterday urged the public to understand his decision to lead the demonstrators out of Sanam Luang last Sunday, which subsequently led to this week's bloodshed.

The popular Bangkok MP said he had not realised that scores of people had been killed and wounded after his arrest on May 18, until he arrived home from prison early yesterday.

His Majesty the King on Wednesday night granted an audience to Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun and Maj-Gen Chamlong to urge the two to compromise to end the protests and violence.

Maj-Gen Chamlong said that since his arrest on Monday morning, he had lost contact with the outside world. He had been held in a small cell with other people who had been rounded up with him.

Even after he had been granted a Royal audience and had appeared on television to urge people to call off the demonstrations, he said, he had not known that the military had violently crushed the protests.

Maj-Gen Chamlong denied accusing the pro-democracy protesters of being trouble-makers in his address on Wednesdays night.

"I ask for your understanding. I was detained in jail and had no contact with the outside," Maj-Gen Chamlong said.

He said his address on Wednesday night had been shaped by His Majesty the King's desire to see a compromise between himself and Gen Suchinda to end the violence.

He had met with other members of the Confederation for Democracy [CFD], the leaders of other opposition parties and privy councillors Prem Tinsulanon and Sanya Thammasak to discuss the matter.

He insisted that the demonstrations, led by the CFD, had been peaceful, and denied that the people who were with him had burned and smashed public property, which started the violent military crackdown.

He said he had not wanted to lead peaceful demonstrators to their deaths for the sake of a political cause.

"I emphasise that I am not the one who caused the violence and death," he said.

He would have led the mob through the police barricade at Phan Fa Bridge on Sunday night if he had wanted violence.

Other well-known persons, such as slum activist Prathip Ungsongtham and ex-Democrat Party member Chalat Worachat, also played prominent roles in the protest.

The decision to march to Government House on Sunday night was a joint decision reached by the CFD, he said, and he had never expected violence to break out.

"I joined the protest as a civilian and I am not in a position to tell the persons who hold power to comply with the people's wish," he said.

Speaking of his arrest by soldiers, he said, "They pointed a gun at me."

He will see to it that a fair compensation is given for the people who were killed and wounded, he said.

He will discuss with other opposition leaders what action to take in Parliament on Monday when the Lower House reconvenes for a general debate on the unrest.

When one reporter said civilians always lose whenever there is a conflict between military men, Maj-Gen Chamlong repeated that he had fought as a civilian, the same as other persons.

"I used to be a general, a Bangkok governor and I ended up in jail," he said, pleading that the public judge him fairly.

He was confident that the Constitution will be amended to meet people's wishes now that the two privy councillors have added their support.

He said the two councillors assigned by His Majesty would help pass on the people's desires to those involved in the amendment attempt.

He will pass on the suggestions of the CFD, the Opposition and the general public to the councillors.

He also said he would also meet again with Gen Suchinda to convey the people's demand that he resign.

He would discuss further action with the CFD if Gen Suchinda refuses to step down, he added.

He said he did not know what Gen Suchinda had in mind during the negotiations on Wednesday when he promised to amend the Constitution.

Asked whether the pro-democracy movement will press ahead with their demand for Gen Suchinda's resignation, Maj-Gen Chamlong said it had not yet been discussed and he could not make a decision by himself.

He said His Majesty had passed a Royal Command for a compromise, and he will have to keep this in mind whatever he decides.

"If I refuse to comply with the command, my reputation will be severely damaged. But I emphasise that I will be on the people's side," he said.

He said he will strictly follow the command until there are "obstacles" that will prevent him from complying with it. He will then inform the privy councillors what he will do next, he said.

He believed that other people would do the same if they were in his shoes.

He had met with the House Speaker to make suggestions on the constitutional amendments, he said, but refused to divulge them.

Defends Protesters' Actions

BK2105110092 Bangkok Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 0910 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Major General Chamlong Simuang went to meet those who were released from the Police Private Training School at Bang Khen early this morning. Later, at a press conference held at the National Assembly, he reaffirmed that the demonstrators were not the people who destroyed government property. He would support amendments to the Constitution to be done as soon as possible.

[Begin Chamlong recording] The demonstrators did not burn up buildings, vehicles or cause other losses. I would like to affirm to both the local and foreign journalists that I was at the foot of Phan Fa Bridge that night until dawn. The military and police fired on us four times. Each salvo lasted a considerably long time. The demonstrators lay down on the ground whenever they fired. I lay down on the roof of a van, which was a clear target.

At about 1500 on 18 May, I learned that the soldiers would attack us. At that time, I pledged to the people that I would not leave the area. I would allow the soldiers to arrest me first when they stormed in. I kept this promise. When the soldiers fired M-16 rifles into the crowd at about 1500, the people lay flat on the ground. The weather was very hot. After the gunfire receded, I raised my right hand to show the soldiers I was there and to invite them to arrest me, but not to harm the people. After a moment, they came and handcuffed me. They brought me to the First Army Region headquarters, but no one was there. So they brought me to the Police Private Training School at Bang Khen. I was detained behind bars for the whole night of 18 May. On the morning of 19 May, the soldiers brought me to another place and detained me there. I stayed there until last night. [end recording]

Major General Chamlong Simuang held this press conference in front of a crowd of more than 100 Thai and foreign journalists. He also said that he did not get any news during his detention, so before taking the next step, he first must consult with the Confederation for Democracy, and will submit suggestions to the prime minister and the house speaker to find ways to improve the situation. However, Major General Chamlong avoided answering several questions, particularly on those who are responsible for the dead and wounded.

Opposition Urges Chamlong Release

BK2105011892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 May 92 p A6

[Text] The four opposition parties called on House Speaker Dr Athit Urairat to exercise his constitutional power to order the release of pro-democracy leader Chamlong Simuang.

Chamlong is under detention along with other 3,000 others.

They submitted an open letter to Athit at Parliament House yesterday.

This was after a 30-minute meeting of their leaders at Princess Hotel yesterday.

Among those who attended the meeting were New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Democrat leader Chuan Likphai. Solidarity leader Bunchu Rotchanasathian and acting Phalang Tham leader Admiral Siri Sirirangsi.

The letter quoted Article 133 of the Constitution as stipulating that neither an MP nor a senator could be arrested on any criminal charge while Parliament is in session.

Chamlong, a Bangkok MP, was arrested on Monday afternoon on charges of instigating unrest.

Athit was quoted as saying he was considering Chamlong's case.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshall] Anan Kalintha said Chamlong would not be released if the House speaker does not ask police to do so.

He added that it was up to police to decide whether Chamlong should be released on bail.

The Opposition also submitted another letter to Athit.

This letter urged him to call an urgent House meeting today to discuss possible ways to solve the present political crisis. This was in reference to the military crackdown on unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators at Ratchadamnoen Avenue early this week when a large number of people were killed.

Part of the letter said that MPs would be able to reduce the political tension through parliamentary means.

A parliamentary meeting was schedueld to take place today.

It was postponed indefinitely following the violent demonstrations in the last few days.

Athit said yesterday a House meeting was likely to be held next week rather than today.

Democrat leader Chuan said he believed the ongoing political problems could be solved by Parliament and a House session should be called as soon as possible.

Democrat member Surin Phitsuwan said, if the House meeting was to take place soon, it would be the best time for the five coalition parties to air their opinions whether they still support Suchinda as prime minister.

Solidarity leader Bunchu said it depends upon the government MPs' political consciousness whether they should continue backing Suchinda following the government's bloody crackdown on demonstrators.

NAP leader Gen Chawalit, in reference to the killings in the last few days, said: "Those who've done wrong will have to face the consequences.

The loss of lives was so serious that it would go down in the nation's history."

Asked about some proposals that all MPs resign to solve the present political crisis, Chawalit said opposition MPs would consider the matter if they could not work out a solution through other parliamentary means.

Party Leader Denies Masterminding Protests

BK2105031192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 May 92 p 7

[Text] New Aspiration Party leader Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday denied he had masterminded the civil unrest, saying he has always fought against dictatorship and the seizure of power by force.

Gen Chawalit described as "nonsense" Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun's accusations against him during his policy statement to Parliament on May 7 and in a television broadcast on Tuesday night.

He said it was a "misunderstanding" and an "insult to the people" to imply that he had organised the unrest with a former member of the now-defunct Communist Party of Thailand [CPT].

He said he grew up in a palace and is close to members of the extended royal family.

After graduating from Chulachomklao Military Academy, he fought against totalitarian ideologies, including extreme leftists and communism.

Previously he thought the use of force was the way to fight communism, he said. But later he became convinced that political means and promotion of national unity were more effective.

He subsequently applied these methods and they were successful, he said. CPT members left the jungles to surrender.

In recognition of his work, he was decorated and gained the confidence of the authorities.

During this time—around 1975—he met Prasoet Sapsunthon, a former pro-Soviet member of the CPT, and other communist defectors, he said.

Former supreme commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek also got to know Mr Prasoet at this time, he added.

Gen Chawalit recalled receiving calls to arrest Mr Prasoet for allegedly causing trouble.

He had obtained a warrant for his arrest and the case is still in court, he said.

He had worked against dictatorship and the seizure of power by coup d'etat throughout his career as an army officer, he said, pointing out that he opposed the coup attempts in 1981 and 1985.

He had tried to build up the Army as a national force, encouraging the participation of soldiers in the country's development.

Upon stepping down from the post of army chief, he had told His Majesty the King that he had chosen as his successor someone he thought was best qualified to replace him, he noted.

Supreme Commander Kaset Comments on Unrest

Situation Now Normal

BK2105113692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1035 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Immediately following an improvement in the situation, the supreme commander together with the Army commander visited the Juvenile and Youth Welfare Office, which was one of the places set on fire during the political crisis earlier this week.

Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, supreme commander and air force commander, together with Army commander Geneneral Itsaraphong Nunphakdi and several high-ranking military officers went to inspect places along Ratchadamnoen Nok Avenue, particularly the Juvenile and Youth Welfare Office. Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin said that everything was over now and the situation in all aspects had returned to normal, with only a few security units remaining in the areas.

Denies Responsibility for Deaths

BK2205011892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 May 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin yesterday denied responsibility for the bloody suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators, saying all Thais in the country are responsible for the tragedy.

Asked what explanations military leaders of the Armed Forces have to offer the relatives of those killed, ACM Kaset replied: "How will I take responsibility? It's a question I don't know how to answer."

The Air Force Commander-in-Chief, who as director of the Internal Peace-keeping Command is responsible for overseeing peace-keeping nationwide during the protest, later added: "Who is responsible? Everyone must be jointly responsible. All Thais of the nation must be jointly responsible."

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, who as director of the Capital Security Command is directly responsible for the peace-keeping forces

in Bangkok, said he was "profoundly sorry" about what happened and "would find additional measures for peace-keeping".

Gen Itsaraphong said the Capital Security Command was "strictly following the policy of the Internal Peace-keeping Command director".

ACM Kaset said the authorities had stressed "lenient" measures against the protesters. Asked what he thought was more lenient between teargas and bullets, the Supreme Commander said: "I can't answer that. I didn't use it (teargas). If somebody else uses it maybe he can say which is more lenient."

ACM Kaset, Gen Itsaraphong and Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Wichet Karunyawanit were answering press questions at the First Army Region where they had lunch with Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun. Gen Suchinda declined to answer any questions.

ACM Kaset started the conference by saying they yesterday visited troops which had been in Bangkok for peace-keeping duty since the weekend. He claimed motorcycle gangs are still destroying public property in Bangkok and there is a need to find measures to deal with them.

He told journalists they could ask questions of benefit and nonprovocative, otherwise the men would not answer.

Asked for the true death toll from the protest and what explanations the military chiefs will give to relatives of those killed, ACM Kaset said Gen Itsaraphong has the "precise" figures and will give them later.

He said the truth is there were ill-intentioned people among the demonstrators who wanted to bring down the democratic Government. They tried to create chaos by burning the Nang Loeng police station and the Youth Welfare Division.

(The burning of the two buildings occurred after troops opened fire and many people at the scene doubt that the perpetrators of such acts were connected to prodemocracy demonstrators. They appeared to know when to come out to burn buildings and cars and when to disappear quickly just before shooting started).

The Supreme Commander said the situation was very confusing and soldiers and policemen were afraid for their lives because of the mood of the crowd.

"A human being is sometimes afraid of death and will have to act in self-defence," ACM Kaset said.

There were more than 10,000 fully armed combat troops with thousands of riot policemen during the demonstration.

ACM Kaset said: "Soldiers and policemen fire warning shots first but if the blood-thirsty come towards them they shoot them in the lower part of the body."

He said troops had to be pitied too without looking at things from one side only.

"Don't throw the blame on anyone. It was a crisis. It was a matter involving all Thais in the country."

Gen Itsaraphong said he proceeded from soft to hard methods against the demonstrators because "we are all Thai". He insisted there were molotov cocktails and hand grenades thrown at the authorities with a "third hand" with rifles shooting at soldiers from rooftops.

However, he said there were no soldiers or policemen reported killed.

He said all hospitals in Bangkok reported 40 dead and 133 wounded are still hospitalised.

Policemen, who he said made a great sacrifice by standing in the front line, suffered 103 wounded, 22 of them "critically." Of the soldiers three were shot and in a critical condition and 201 wounded.

"All these figures really affect the hearts of all Thais in the country," the Army cheif said.

Asked when the authorities will start to use measures employed in civilised countries to deal with protesters rather than to use violence every time, ACM Kaset said he does not know what other countries do but thinks they use more violent methods.

"We use lenient methods. We are Thai. We must be lenient and negotiated peacefully. That is our principle," ACM Kaset said.

Asked which is more lenient, teargas or bullets, he said he did not know since he did not use them.

Asked how he will go about trying to improve the image of soldiers in the eyes of the people, ACM Kaset said he will have to rely on the press to make the public understand. He thanked them in advance.

Asked when all the troops will be pulled out of Bangkok since they insist the situation is now "normal", ACM Kaset said this will be done once opportunist gangs are "dissolved."

He then said that was all he had to say and all three Armed Forces chiefs left without answering further questions.

Stresses Joint Responsibility

BK2105152992 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Answering questions from the mass media for the first time after the situation had returned to normal, Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, supreme commander and Air Force commander, said that not any particular side but everyone in the country must be held jointly responsible for the loses of lives resulting from the retaliatory actions taken by the military and police

against the violence triggered by the ill-intentioned groups who want to topple the legitimate and constitutionally established government.

He noted: [Begin recording] [Kaset] We must sympathize with the authorities who have to maintain peace and order. We should not look at only one side of the incident. Try to recall what happened after 4 May as you watched it on television. You will see that the authorities practiced restraint. Nobody wants such incidents to take place. We have to try to save lives. This is all I can say. Who will be held responsible? We must be held jointly responsible. Thai people in the entire country must be held jointly responsible. We should not blame any person. The crisis affects Thai people throughout the country. Everyone must help each other to maintain peace and tranquility in Thailand. You all are the most important components in the maintenance of national peace and order. [end recording]

The supreme commander and air force commander also said that we have to rely on the mass media to create good relations between the military and people and the mass media must present factual reports to the people.

He said: [Begin recording] The mass media plays the most important role in presenting factual reports to the fraternal people. We are fully aware of the situation since some of us have been involved in it. I regard the mass media as the most important tool in enabling the people to gain a true knowledge of the situation. [end recording]

Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin also appealed to the people to inform the Capital Security Force if they happen to see any motorcycle gangs committing crimes.

Army Official Denies Death Toll 'Rumors'

BK2105143992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Although the situation has now improved, some ill-intentioned persons still want to create tension in the country by spreading rumors through leaflets, saying that thousands of people were killed during the unrest a few days ago. Regarding this issue, Colonel Banchon Chawasin, army assistant secretary and representative of the Capital Security Command, appealed to the people to consider the rumors carefully so that they would not become a tool of those ill-intentioned people.

[Begin Banchon recording] Some ill-intentioned persons want to create tension by spreading false information through various methods, such as distributing underground leaflets ostensibly in the name of the THAI RAT newspaper to the effect that the death toll is as high as 8,968. There also were other leaflets saying that the death toll is as high as 1,243, with bodies being taken away by the soldiers for disposal in the provinces.

People, if they use their fair judgment, can determine that these rumors are totally groundless. If the death toll reached thousands, how many cars would have been used to transport the bodies? How long would it have taken the soldiers to put the bodies on the trucks? How could these things have missed the newspaper photographers. And, how could thousands of bodies have been disposed of secretly without it being known by other people? I therefore would like to appeal to the people to give careful consideration to the credibility of these rumors so that they will not become a tool of these ill-intentioned persons. However, if anybody has evidence to support such rumors, please make it known to the Capital Security Command so that it can cooperate with a neutral organization or persons to discover the facts. [end recording]

International Censure of State 'Brutality' Sought

BK2205045192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 May 92 p A6

[Editorial: "A Vision Drawn in Blood"]

[Text] All national tragedies leave scars. The military started to turn their guns on the people early Monday morning. By Tuesday they had already killed at least a hundred unarmed men, women and children, some of whom had chosen to brave the bullets in the firm belief that their vision of the future will reshape the country's destiny.

The future vision of the Thais who have taken to the streets in the tens of thousands since May 4 is full democracy—of the people, by the people, for the people, and free from the dominance of their military. But a few men, reluctant to relinquish the power they have enjoyed for too long, sought the way of violent suppression of those who were opposed to them.

Using weapons purchased with taxpayers' money, the military that is supposed to protect this country turned against its own people.

The brutal use of force was first displayed at dawn on Monday at Phan Fa bridge, just after about 30,000 people protesting against unelected Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun finished singing the national anthem.

The bloodbath that followed the next day around the Royal Hotel area clearly showed that the dictatorial clique ruling this country has a complete disdain for the people and their aspsirations.

Several questions need to be asked about why the situation escalated to such an extent that it led to the excessive use of force by the military.

First, why did the riot police play a hide-and-seek game with 20 to 30 stone- and bottle-throwing protesters at Mahathai Uthit bridge opposite Phan Fa on Monday morning? They could have easily diffused the tension building up in the crowd by firing tear-gas canisters in three directions—Mahathai Uthi bridge, Phan Fa bridge and Lan Luang Road.

Instead, the baton-wielding police chose to pursue the protesters through the soi beside Mahathai Uthit Bridge, nabbing and then beating up five of them. Then they dragged their semi-conscious bodies through the road in full view of the crowds at Phan Fa, Ratchadamnoen Avenue, and Lan Luang Road.

Secondly, despite assurances to journalists at Ratchadamnoen Avenue that blanks would be fired in the air as the first volley of warning shots at 3:45 am on Monday to disperse the crowd at Phan Fa, Ratchadamnoen and lan Luang, why were live bullets used? The commanders had given orders to their men to fire in the air, yet a few army commandos disobeyed and fird into the crowd. These men again were deployed in mop-up operations against the anti-Suchinda protesters on Tuesday and Wednesday.

When Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin was asked by reporters yesterday why the military had not dealt with the proteters in the way most other countries do, he replied: "I don't know how civilized countries deal with mobs. But I think those countries use more violent measures."

House Speaker Dr Athit Urairat said yesterday that the House of Representatives may set up a working committee on Monday to invetigate the number of casualties and persons who went missing after the military crackdown on protestes began on Monday. Athit also said a grievances committee might be created, subject to the decision of all members of the House.

The setting up of this comittee is of utmost urgency. There should be no foot-dragging about it, particularly by leaders of the coalition parties, who have displayed the same kind of intransigence as ACM Kaset in recent days. As well, an independent comission of inquiry into the shootings and human rights atrocities carried out against the demonstrators should be formed immediately. This independent comission of inquiry into the shootings and human righgs atrocities carried out against the demonstrators should be formed immediately. This independent commission should comprise academics, non-governmental organizations, journalists, medical doctors, and lawyers, be headed by a judge and have legal status. By virtue of having legal status, whatever reports that the independent commission comes up with would be binding in bringing the culprits to court.

We sincerely hope that neither government leaders, the military nor any other authorities try to use the lame old excuse of the atrocities being "Thailand's internal affair" in respnding to condemnation from abroad.

State power has been used with unprecedented brutality, and it is the responsibility of all governments to take a stand.

The world did not stand by and tolerate the Tiananmen massacre, nor did it allow the East Timor massacre to go unnoticed. Those responsible for the bloodbath in Thailand will not escape international censure either. Gen Suchinda's government lacked legitimacy even before this tragedy. Now it has killings and human rights abuses on its conscience as well.

Ban on Three Bangkok Dailies Withdrawn

BK2205031792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 May 92 p A2

[Text] Police Director General Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat yesterday revoked an order he had signed earlier in the day to close THE NATION and two Thai-language dailies for three days for their critical coverage of the government's violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators.

The original order, which would have taken effect from today, said THE NATION, NAEO NA and THE MANAGER had printed stories which "affect national security and create confusion among members of the public."

The order cited a story in the May 20 edition of THE NATION which said reporters witnessed police and soldier beating demonstrators.

Sutthichai Yun, the publisher of THE NATION, refused a summons by Pol Maj Gen Yothin Matthayomnan, commander of the Special Branch Division, to acknowledge the closure order.

But a few hours after the closure order was issued, Sawat signed another order to revoke it.

Front Page of International Paper Censored

BK2205074392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 May 92 p A5

[Text] Police personnel censored the front page of the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE's May 20 issue before it was distributed in Thailand on Wednesday.

Readers who managed to get a copy of the hard-to-find paper were surprised to see that a story on the top of the front page had been blacked out with a felt pen.

The story was sandwiched between a lead article on the revolt against the military crackdown in Bangkok and a large photo of a Thai woman trying to get information about a detained relative.

While the story, a background article on military involvement in the Thai economy, was highly critical of the armed forces' role in certain economic sectors, it did not contain any new or surprising information for Thais or foreign residents.

"To the army, civilian rule in Thailand is a threat to privileges that have made generations of colonels and generals rich," said the story, entitled "Spoils of power: military risks loss of wealth under civilians" and written by NEW YORK TIMES correspondent Barbara Crossette.

"(Civilian rule) would jeopardize their immunity from prosectution in corrupt and sometimes criminal acts, Thai political scientists say.

"It would sooner or later remove them from the boards of major industries.

"It could end their involvement in a host of nefarious trades, including narcotics," the article said.

It went on to say that a "former high official of a nearby country" recounted how he had gone to a conference with Thai officers "whom he knew to be involved in transporting drugs from the golden Triangle".

It also reprinted allegations of military leaders profiting from destructive logging in Thailand, Burma and Cambodia.

The story said that according to regional diplomats, "the Thai military is the channel through which the Khmer Rouge raises money by selling Cambodian gemstones and timber".

It was not known who had ordered the police personnel to black out the offending story.

Daily Terms Unrest 'Dark Episode' in History

BK1905022792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 May 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Enough: End This Terrible Tragedy"]

[Text] Despite criticism of its undemocratic nature, the present Thai Constitution does provide a fundamental right for the people to assemble peacefully. Article 39 of the charter says: "The people have the freedom to assemble peacefully and without arms. Such freedom cannot be restricted unless through the virtue of specific laws dealing with public gatherings and the protection of the people's convenience in using such public places, or the maintenance of law and order in times of war or when the country is under a state of emergency or when martial law is declared."

The right to peaceful assembly where people air their opinions in a non-violent manner is universally guaranteed in the free world; it is one of the basic characteristics of a democracy. Crucial to a peaceful assembly is the restraint by both the protesters and law-enforcement authorities to avoid using force. This was evidenced in the previous, week-long demonstrations which passed without violence despite tension which ran high at the time.

Unfortunately, the latest protest against Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun which turned violent and triggered forceful suppression by the Government has deteriorated into something bordering on a national tragedy. The sort of restraint that was evidenced in the previous demonstrations gave way to emotion-charged encounters and violent clashes between the protesters and security forces. The situation appears to have turned particularly ugly last night as armed government troops tried to quell defiant protesters along Ratchadamnoen Avenue who were enraged by the official use of force and the arrests of Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang and other protesters earlier in the afternoon.

The tumultuous events over the last 48 hours will go down as a dark episode in Thai history. The already fragile political situation and social fabric have been shattered. Scenes of street violence and bloody clashes that were flashed across television screens around the world have reduced this country's international image to nothing better than a banana republic. The incalculable damage to various aspects of the national economy will probably take years to rebuild.

Who is going to be responsible for these disastrous consequences? Which side—between the Government and the protesters—is responsible for "triggering" off the first wave of violence that subsequently led to the chaos? The state of emergency notwithstanding, who takes responsibility for the large casualty toll? What action is being take to put a speedy end to the nightmarish situation? These are questions that need to be urgently addressed.

It was apparent that a small group of mobsters that went on a rampage throughout the course of Sunday night set off the subsequent violence. The Government has invariably accused them of being part of the protesters acting at the behest of the protest leaders—but Maj-Gen Chamlong blamed the rampage as the handiwork of the Government. Amid these conflicting allegations, it is appropriate for an independent investigation panel to be set up to look into the root cause as well as all other crucial aspects of this tragic episode. This panel can be headed by a neutral person who is respected by the public to ensure that justice is brought to bear on the culprits.

In the meantime, both sides will have to exercise extreme self-restraint to put an immediate halt to further violence. Enough damage has been caused to life and property—the country can take no more.

'Painful Process of Recovery' Predicted

BK2105033392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 May 92 p A8

[Editorial: "Will The Pain Ever Heal?"]

[Text] His Majesty the King has graciously intervened to put a stop to the unprecedented confrontation between Premier Suchinda Khraprayun and his military backers on the one side and the democracy movement on the other.

Now the painful process of recovery from the country's tremendous loss caused by the brutal crackdown on demonstrators must start.

The Thai people are watching closely to see just how the "compromise" between Gen Suchinda and Chamlong

Simuang will be translated into action that will satisfy the majority of the people, who are enraged at atrocities committed over the last few days by military and police personnel.

Deep scars remain. Many questions are left unanswered. How many people have actually died in the past few days at the hands of the military and police? Can the country really forgive and forget?

We seriously doubt it.

Whatever the answers are, one thing is certain:: Thailand will never be the same again.

We know in our hearts that this nation will never heal if despots are permitted to continue to muscle their way in to power and impose their will upon society. Who will be held responsible for the awful measures that have been resorted to, which have caused the loss of no less than hundreds of lives? Can there really be a compromise over the lives of so many people?

These atrocities will be remembered by all Thais and members of civilized society everywhere. The burden is on all of us now to ensure that those who are crazy for power are no longer allowed to suppress political liberty, freedom of expression, and freedom of speech.

The people's outcry will be heard. But now we are too weary and dazed to say or do much more. The events of the last few days and the wounds, the suffering they have caused will haunt us for a long, long time to come.

Vietnam

17th Joint MIA Search Concludes

BK2105162192 Hanoi VNA in English 1425 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 21—The 17th joint excavation and search for Americans missing in action during the Vietnam War was conducted by Vietnamese and American experts from April 20 to May 20 in the provinces of Tuyen Quang, Quang Binh, Thua Thien-Hue, and Quang Nam-Danang.

During the said period a joint Vietnamese-U.S. team investigated 11 reports on sightings of live Americans in Hanoi, Ha Tay, Cao Bang, [word indistinct] Thua Thien; Hue, Quang Nam-Danang, Khanh Hoa, Lam Dong, Ba Ria-Vungtau. And Ho Chi Minh City.

Meanwhile, a joint team collected information [word indistinct] Ho Chi Minh City to [words indistinct] the MIA searches and aid the search conducted by American and Cambodian experts in Cambodia.

Information about and remains of MIA were collected which shed light on the fate of the MIA in question and proved that reports on live Americans being held in Vietnam are mere hoaxes.

General Thomas Needham, commander of the US POW/MIA [word indistinct] in the Pacific region, who supervised the excavations and searches, highly valued Vietnam's cooperation.

The American experts left Vietnam for home on May 20.

Ministry Denounces U.S.-PRC Spratlys Oil Deal

BK2105163892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Hanoi, May 21 (AFP)—Vietnam renewed its criticism Thursday of a Sino-American deal to explore for oil near the disputed Spratly Islands, but vowed to try to settle the dispute through peaceful negotiations.

"What these two companies have done will affect negatively the ongoing favorable development of relations between Vietnam and China and cause anxiety to other countries concerned in the region," Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Ho The Lan said.

China on Wednesday rejected Hanoi's call to annul the May 8 agreement between China's National Offshore Oil Co. and the U.S. Crestone Energy Corp and reasserted its claim of sovereignty over the Spratly Islands.

But Lan said the oil exploration zone was "outside the periphery of the Spratly Archipelago," which is also claimed in whole or part by Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan.

"Tu Chin Bank—China calls it 'Vanguard 21'—is located on the continental shelf of Vietnam," she said, describing the Sino-American deal as a "serious violation" of Vietnamese sovereignty.

The Tu Chin Bank lies about 440 kilometers (280 miles) southeast of the southern Vietnamese port of Vung Tao and about 220 kilometers (140 miles) southwest of the Spratlys.

Lan noted that when the Vietnamese and Chinese leaders agreed to normalize relations in November, they pledged to settle their disputes through negotiations and in the meantime avoid taking any action to complicate the situation.

"Consistently, we are persevering with our good will to settle every dispute through negotiations and the exchange of ideas, and we hope that each side will exercise restraint so as not to make the situation more complicated," she said.

The Chinese Navy sank two Vietnamese vessels during a March 1988 clash in the Spratlys area.

Spokeswoman on Thai Situation, Detainees, Refugees

BK2105122792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] A spokeswoman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said Vietnam wishes that the situation in Thailand

will soon be stable so that the Thai people can live a normal life. This will also benefit stability in the region. At a press conference in Hanoi on Thursday, Mrs Ho The Lan asked the Thai side to release 50 Vietnamese illegally arrested and detained on 4 March. These Vietnamese are border guards on the patrol boat of Minh Hai Province who were illegally arrested while they were on guard. She also urged the Thai side not to repeat similar action and take effective measures against illegal Thai fishing boats in Vietnamese territorial waters. She said that would benefit the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

On the repatriation of Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong, the spokeswoman said: Vietnam continues its policy of resolving the repatriation on the basis of voluntary and in order and safety, respect for their dignity and with the assistance from international community for their reintegration in the society.

She made known that next month Vietnam will receive 1,000 repatriates.

U.S. Embargo Blamed for Capital Shortage

BK2105151092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] At the recent annual conference of the Asian Development Bank [ADB], Vietnam State Bank Governor Cao Sy Kiem said: Vietnam's main difficulty at present is the shortage of capital for long-term investment in building infrastructure projects.

zHe stressed that Vietnam is striving to shift to a market economy and promote private sector investment. He said Vietnam will join the international financial community once the U.S. embargo against Vietnam is lifted. Meanwhile, the Lao delegation to the same conference supported Vietnam's stand in this regard and asserted that the ADB must play a more positive role in providing assistance to the Indochinese countries.

CPV's Hong Ha Meets Japanese Foreign Minister

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[Text] Hanoi VNA May 2l—Michio Watanabe, vice premier and foreign minister of Japan, on May 20 received in Tokyo Hong Ha, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and head of its external relations commission, on a visit to Japan.

Hong Ha told the Japanese host that Vietnam attaches great importance to its relations with [words indistinct] their quicker development. He praised the Japanese minister's valuable contributions to strenthening the relations between Japan and Vietnam and expressed hope that Watanabe would soon visit Vietnam.

The Japanese chief diplomat expressed his [word indistinct] at Vietnam's good [word indistinct] in developing its relations with other countries, especially with the United States. He said he had no doubt that Nippo-Vietnam [word indistinct] would continue to strengthen and [word indistinct]. He expressed his desire to visit Vietnam at an early date.

Vo Van Kiet Visits Western Highlands

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[Text] Recently, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet held working sessions with leaders of the three Western Highland provinces of Gia Lai, Kon Tum, and Dac Lac on socioeconomic development in the coming years and until the year 2000.

The provincial leaders reported to the chairman on the past socioeconomic progress as well as their difficulties and ordeals. Chairman Vo Van Kiet hailed the party committees and people in the Western Highland provinces for their efforts to stabilize and develop the socioeconomic situation, improve the people's living standards, strengthen unity between different ethnic communities, and maintain the local security and national defense.

He also offered some advice on the development of the Western Highlands social economy. Regarding the economy, the chairman stressed the neeed for measures to exploit the potential and advantages of forests, forest land, and labor for agro-forestry development in the direction of setting up efficient cultivation areas for industrial and fruit trees. He urged the highlands to develop the agro-forestry processing industry for local and export markets and to stop the export of unprocessed timber. He emphasized the continuation of granting land and forests to peasants in order to protect natural forests and speed up the coverage of empty and hilly land with trees. Villages will represent the government in the forest management work and the public will become owners of the pieces of forests where they are living. The land of state farms and forest farms needs to be adjusted so that all the land is owned and productive.

Water management needs to be combined with hydroelectricity station construction to meet the demand of water for consumption and irrigation. And when the investment is still limited, hydroelectricity production should be given priority in water management projects.

At present, the chairman continued, the work of the settled farming and settled life program is not very progressive. Every locality must fix the number of households they can help settle in a year before applying measures to settle the people or finding water sources for them. The central government will provide enough food to stop slash-and-burn farming, develop industrial tree planting, and quickly stabilize the life of nomadic people. The government will also allocate a separate fund for urgent needs of the settled farming and settled life program.

Regarding the social aspects, Chairman Vo Van Kiet acknowledged the efforts of the Western Highlands in the past in successfully implementing party and state policies to improve the life of the local ethnic minority people. He also mentioned some present tasks that would further improve the people's life. All localities need to coordinate with all sections to provide enough staple goods for the mountainous areas. Education, health services, and the campaign to eradicate backward traditions must be given more attention. The provinces, districts, and sectors of the central government should supply more cadres and necessary means to prevent and fight malaria and eradicate illiteracy in the public, especially in isolated areas. Plans to train ethnic cadres should be expanded and the mountainous ethnic culture should be preserved.

Regarding security and national defense, the chairman stressed that the Central Highlands are an important area and must be given maximum consideration. He reminded them that only a good security and national defense can guarantee a successful implementation of socioeconomic plans. Therefore, each locality, while preparing its socioeconomic plans, must closely coordinate with the plans on security and national defense.